

Too early to talk of Mideast bank — Saudi minister

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi Finance Minister Mohammad Abal Khai on Wednesday said it was "premature" to talk about setting up a Middle East development bank saying its goals had yet to be defined. The proposals to set up such a bank was made at October's conference in Casablanca, Morocco, on economic development in the Middle East and North Africa. But Mr. Abal Khai told journalists after a meeting of finance ministers from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) that its goals "were still badly defined." He added the ministers from the GCC — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia — had not discussed the proposal. On Tuesday the Israeli foreign ministry said U.S. President Bill Clinton had invited the group of countries which want to set up a Middle East development bank for talks in Washington from January 10 to 12. A ministry spokesman said representatives of foreign and finance ministries of around 20 countries were expected to attend the talks on how to establish such a bank and its functions.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جordan تايمز يومي مستقل ناشر المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الرأي»

Musasher confirms his nomination as envoy to Israel

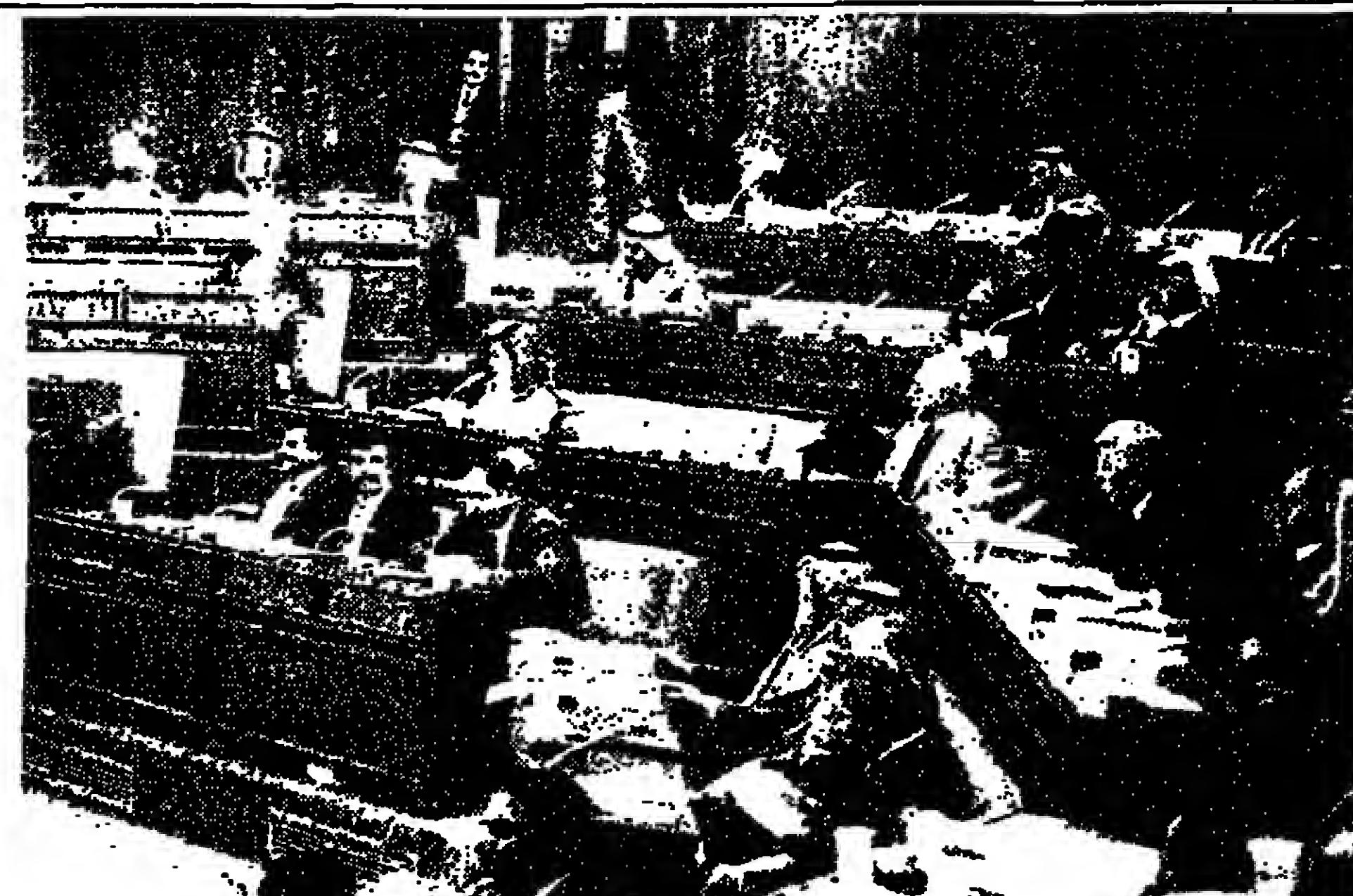
SOUTH SHUNEH (AP) — Marwan Musasher, a former spokesman for the Jordanian peace negotiating team with Israel, said Wednesday he was "eager" to assume his duty as the Kingdom's first ambassador to the Jewish state. Speaking to reporters, Mr. Musasher said: "It is a challenging position, but I'm proud and I look forward to serving my nation." Mr. Musasher, who has previously declined comment on his nomination, will be the first Jordanian diplomat to assume such a post since the foundation of the Jewish state five decades ago and the second Arab ambassador to Israel after Egypt. The 36-year-old ambassador-designate, who has served in several government posts in the past 10 years, said no date had yet been set for his departure to Israel. Mr. Musasher spoke on the fringes of a meeting of a newly formed joint Jordan-Israeli commission entrusted with negotiating and executing agreements listed in the October peace treaty.

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Government presents '95 budget to Parliament



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali addresses the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday over his government's fiscal policies for 1995 (photos by Yousef 'Ahsan)

Majali: Jordan sought greater regional role, not money for peace

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Wednesday said that Jordan did not make peace with Israel to get quick economic benefits but rather to secure its rights and its role in the region.

The prime minister, who sought to lower expectations of the peace era, told Jordanians that although peace promises a brighter future for the Kingdom, there was a great deal of hard work to be done to fight unemployment

and poverty.

The prime minister, in a speech to the Lower House of Parliament, said that peace did not only mean peace with Israel but a transformation of the country's regional and international role.

He told deputies that if Jordan had not entered the peace process, the Kingdom would have been on the receiving end of plans formulated by others.

"The 1995 budget is one of the most ambitious ones" in

Jordan's history, Dr. Majali said.

"The peace we signed and ratified (with Israel) carries the promise of a better future," Dr. Majali said.

Dr. Majali said there had been a considerable growth in foreign investment in the past few months, amounting to several hundred million dinars.

Following are major excerpts of an address by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali in Parliament, Wednesday.

upon the presentation of the 1995 fiscal budget.

JORDAN is under exceptional circumstances affecting all aspects of its life. The 1995 budget has thus been designed to serve as one of the most ambitious budgets because people have high expectations, but also apprehensions, and look to this budget as reflecting their aspirations.

The government is submitt-

ing here the budget in detail

so that the door will later be opened to comprehensive dialogues over its provisions.

The peace treaty promises a better future for the Kingdom. But this brighter future has not been a price we have paid for by signing the treaty.

Had we calculated the gains in fils and dirhams we

would not have embarked on

signing the treaty; we chose instead to take the stand of honour and reach the treaty

(Continued on page 7)

Gammoh — Budget aims at self-reliance

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali seeks to adopt policies that will lead Jordan to self-reliance, ultimately ensuring that expenditures are covered from local revenues, Minister of Finance Sami Gammoh told Parliament Wednesday.

Mr. Gammoh stressed the need to accord priority for the army and security forces to develop their capabilities and improve their performance to guarantee the security of the Kingdom and its people and to protect public freedoms.

The draft budget, he said, provides for cancelling exemptions from taxes and customs duties granted for government departments and underlines the need to continue efforts to develop the administrative system.

He said the government seeks to achieve a six per cent growth rate in the gross domestic product and to maintain the current price level and continue building foreign currency reserves.

The finance minister added that the government will also seek to reduce foreign debts and increase exports while at the same time reducing imports.

Following are major excerpts from the speech made by Finance Minister Sami Gammoh at the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday introducing his 1995 fiscal budget:

... The peace era we are passing through now poses grave challenges for us and requires the efforts of all of

us to continue the construction process... and this requires the creation of a climate that would attract investments, activate national deposits, expand the basis for production, create qualified human cadres, obtain modern technology and modernise and develop legislations with the objective of enhancing the national economy....

The Middle East region has witnessed a decline in the growth rate in the few past years, since the growth rate has dropped from 7.3 per cent in 1992 to 4.8 per cent in 1993 and to 2 per cent in 1994. This is due to the drop in the prices of oil and decline in regional cooperation.

The general price index rate in the region is estimated at 21 per cent.

Of the most important developments witnessed in the region recently was the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and Jordan's regaining its full national land and water rights. The convening of the economic summit conference in Casablanca was an affirmation of the significance of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. Discussion at this conference focused on new integrated economic perceptions for the future of the Middle East and North Africa and the establishment of a regional development bank.

The conference also discussed the establishment of large regional projects in the fields of communications, trans-

(Continued on page 7)



Centre of an exhibition, Petrascape, by Dutch artist Gertie Bierensbroodspot (see story on page 3)

Jordanian-Israeli committee concludes meeting; Palestinian delegation starts talks on refugees

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian-Israeli committee charged with the implementation of Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty concluded a meeting at Deir Alla in the Jordan Valley Wednesday.

Dr. Hani Mulki, the head of the Jordanian side, told Petra news agency that the two sides discussed the general framework for the work of the sub-committees, and will submit that to the two governments for approval before holding the next meeting on Dec. 18 at Lake Tiberias on the Israeli side.

Dr. Mulki said that starting on Sunday five of these sub-committees would start discussions on transport, environment, agriculture, water, crime and drugs. The talks will be held at different locations on Tiberias, the Dead Sea and Sheikh Hus-

sein Bridge. Dr. Mulki said. He said that discussions on economic cooperation were postponed until the joint committee's next meeting on Dec. 18.

According to Dr. Mulki the process of demarcation of borders between the two countries was proceeding according to plan. He said that all land mines on both sides will be removed by February stressing that all committee meetings would conclude in nine months.

Meanwhile, the Jordanian-Palestinian committee on displaced persons held a meeting at the Foreign Ministry in Amman and focused its attention on matters related to information about the number of displaced persons and need for reasserting their rights and ensuring their repatriation.

He said these displaced persons, 200,000 in Egypt and 54,000 in Jordan, have had their permits cancelled by the Israeli authorities.

Asem Ghoshen, member

of the Jordanian committee, said that the meeting paved the way for a four-nation committee meeting grouping Jordan, Egypt, Palestine and Israel that has been entrusted to discuss the question of refugees and displaced persons.

He said that the two sides agreed that Jordan, Palestine and Egypt hold a separate meeting in advance of the four-nation meeting.

Meanwhile, Walid Zagout, a member of the Palestinian delegation, said that he would demand that 254,000 displaced persons should have their permits allowing them to return to Palestine be renewed.

He said these displaced persons, 200,000 in Egypt and 54,000 in Jordan, have had their permits cancelled by the Israeli authorities.

Little progress results from Christopher visit

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher negotiated a ceasefire in the Israeli-Syrian war of words and soothed Palestinian fears, but left unanswered all the real questions on his seventh Middle East peace shuttle of 1994.

Israeli leaders struggled to come up with the right words Wednesday to put a positive spin on the visit, but they agreed nothing much had changed.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin noted an improvement in "tone," but admitted: "I don't yet see any clear change in position."

The secretary arrived in Israel on Tuesday, urging both sides to move forward.

But he lined up behind Israel to criticise Syrian President Hafez Assad's warning that Syria preferred the "current situation" rather than surrender.

Israel has offered a phased withdrawal on the Golan Heights ahead of talks on a final deal.

Israel denies it wants 'Oslo deal renegotiated

CAIRO (AP) — The chief Israeli negotiator with the PLO Wednesday pledged his country will adhere to autonomy agreements despite second thoughts following attacks by extremists in Israel and the occupied territories.

Uri Savir told reporters after two days of talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation that reports of Israel's desire to renegotiate parts of the September 1993 self-rule pact were incorrect.

"We clearly reiterated Israel's determination to implement the next phase (of the accord) in all its parts," said Mr. Savir, one of the Israeli officials who secretly negotiated the agreement in Norway.

He added that within the accord "we can find the necessary flexibility to... overcome obstacles that exist on the ground."

The talks dealt with a further redeployment of Israeli troops in the occupied West Bank away from

peace treaty with Israel but is rather a full transformation of our regional and international role. We are faced with two options: to leave to others the task of planning our future for us and in that case we will find ourselves in a position in which we are forced to co-exist with those plans against our will, or take part in formulating our future ourselves and exert our own influence on the course of events."

Dr. Majali appeared to be responding to Mr. Hindawi and others, who have criticised the government's efforts to ensure financial aid to Jordan after it signed a peace treaty with Israel.

Although one deputy said that this is the "best budget we could hope for," he said the question now is

"Peace is not a mere

(Continued on page 7)

U.N. says Jordanian hostage in Bosnia released

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The United Nations said that the Bosnian Serbs had freed a seriously ill Jordanian peacekeeper on Wednesday after a Russian soldier volunteered to take his place.

Chief U.N. spokesman Joe Sills said that the Jordanian major, suffering from a heart condition, was on his way to Zagreb. "The swap was made and he is now en route to Zagreb," Mr. Sills said.

Earlier reports said that Maj. Zuid was reportedly bedridden with a deteriorating heart condition. Bosnian Serbs had earlier reneged on a promise to release him in exchange for another observer and instead took the new observer and his driver hostage.

"We regard this as a blatantly inhuman act against a seriously ill, unarmed military observer... I think the people responsible for this should and will be held accountable for it," said Mr. Sills.

He said U.N. officials were quickly trying to win Maj. Zuid's release.

"This sort of thing has got to be brought to an end..." British ambassador, Sir David Hannay, said after a Security Council meeting Tuesday. The council, however, did not discuss Bosnia during Tuesday's closed discussions.

Maj. Zuid, whose first name was not immediately available, fell ill after he and three other U.N. military observers were taken hostage 10 days ago at the airfield in Banja Luka in northwestern Bosnia, Mr. Sills said.

"We requested some days ago his medical evacuation and the Serbian authorities blocked this evacuation for a period of four days, saying that they would only allow it if we would provide a replacement hostage for him."

"We declined to do that, but after the period of four days his condition had worsened so that we felt for humanitarian reasons we really had to give in to this outrageous demand," Mr. Sills said.

U.N. officials say there are still about 300 peacekeepers being held hostage by Serbs.

Alleged killer turns himself in

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 22-year-old man, identified as Saad Ahmad, surrendered to police yesterday afternoon alleging that he killed a 52-year-old man, Khalid Mohammad, the prosecutor general said Wednesday.

Prosecutor Abdul Rahim Abu Hatoum told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview that Ahmad, a resident of Ta'a Al Ali and real estate dealer committed the crime in the vicinity of Jiza, 20 kilometres south of Amman.

Mr. Ahmad and his victim had reportedly gone to Jiza to view a piece of land that he presumably wanted to buy from the victim, the prosecutor general said.

Mr. Abu Hatoum, however, said that the initial investigation points to other motives. He did not elaborate. He said more investigations will be carried out on Thursday.

He said that the alleged killer stabbed his victim many times in the head and neck and then drove over him with his car. "He only turned himself in because the victim's family knew they went out together," Mr. Abu Hatoum said.

He said that the victim was married and had "some" daughters and lived in Abu Nuseir neighbourhood.

Izetbegovic says Muslim states will give more aid to Bosnia

By Wendy Lubetkin
USA

GENEVA — Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic says Muslim countries in the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) are willing to provide the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) with more peacekeeping troops and are ready to assist Bosnia with more financial support and humanitarian aid.

Mr. Izetbegovic spoke following a Dec. 6 meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Bosnia, which brought together foreign or vice ministers from Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan and Turkey as well as diplomatic representatives from Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan and Bangladesh.

Pass support of Bosnia by the Muslim countries was "significant but not sufficient," Mr. Izetbegovic said at a joint press conference with the OIC ministers. "We know very well that the billions of Muslims in the world can help Bosnia more than before."

OIC ministers also reaffirmed their commitment to the

asserting that UNPROFOR had failed to fulfill its mandate under U.N. Security Council resolutions, Mr. Izetbegovic said he was asking the Islamic countries to play a "more active role" and provide more troops to the U.N. peacekeeping force.

He said the OIC appeared ready to support all of his requests.

"We limited our military request to asking for an increased number of troops from Islamic countries," he said, noting that OIC states also agreed to set up a "common financial fund" for Bosnia.

Egypt's Minister Foreign Affairs Amr Musa said the OIC could no longer countenance "the unfair treatment of Bosnia-Herzegovina."

"We are not working from the standpoint that this is a war between Muslims and others," he said. "This is an international war, an aggression by one country against another."

"We want UNPROFOR to implement and respect its mandate. That is why we are calling for a joint meeting with the five-power Contact Group."

the territorial integrity of Bosnia and firmly rejected any proposal for a federation or confederation between the Bosnian Serbs and Belgrade, he said.

He added that the OIC is opposed to any lifting of sanctions against Serbia-Montenegro unless three conditions are met: that Belgrade recognises Bosnia as a state, that it accepts deployment of UNPROFOR troops along the border, and that the Bosnian Serbs accept the peace plan as offered.

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QATAR COMMANDER: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday receives at the Royal Court the commander of the Qatari Air Force, Colonel Ahmad Al Kawvari. Prince Hassan and Col. Kawvari reviewed scopes

of cooperation between Jordan and Qatar as well as issues of common interest. The meeting was attended by Commander of the Royal Air Force Brigadier Mohammad Al Qudah and the Crown Prince's military secretary (Petra photo)

PNA issues first stamp

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AFP) — The Palestinian self-rule authority has issued its own postage for local use and hopes to make them international in 1995, the communications "minister" said Wednesday.

The stamps, which depict Jerusalem's holy Muslim and Christian sites as well as the Palestinian flag, are for use only within the autonomous Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

They bear the name "The Palestinian Authority."

Abdul Hafiz Al Ashhab, the Palestinian communications "minister," said he requested membership to the International Postal Union about a month ago.

"We will then be able to use our stamps all over the world," he told AFP, adding that he expected an answer early next year.

Two-thirds of the union's members would have to approve the move.

He said the authority has ordered a second batch of stamps, which include revenue stamps for use on official documents.

Germany, which printed the stamps, has also kept some to sell as collector's items to cover production costs, Mr. Ashhab said.

Mr. Ashhab said the first batch mistakenly appeared in "milliemmes," or one thousandths of the Palestinian pound, the currency used during the British mandate of Palestine.

But they are sold for between half a shekel and 10 shekels (17 U.S. cents to \$3.3).

The next batch would be corrected to "fils," or thousandths of a dinar, the currency when the West Bank and East Jerusalem were part of Jordan, Mr. Ashhab said.

After the establishment of a Palestinian monetary authority, the currency would again be in "milliemmes."

Afghan factions fail to agree on ceasefire

TEHRAN (AFP) — Representatives of rival Afghan factions failed to reach a ceasefire accord after a week of talks here, an Iranian foreign ministry official said Wednesday.

The Afghan delegations "stressed the need to establish a ceasefire" but failed to agree on a date or precise arrangements for one, Mir-Mahmud Mussavi told a news conference.

Mr. Mussavi headed the Iranian delegation to the talks, which opened at the foreign ministry on Nov. 29. Representatives from Pakistan, the United Nations and the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) were also present at the OIC-sponsored talks in the Iranian capital.

The OIC said from its Jeddah headquarters on Sunday that the rival factions had agreed in principle to a ceasefire starting of the year.

Sudanese troops repulse rebel attack on Kapoeta

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese government troops have repulsed a rebel assault aimed at recapturing an important southern town, a military spokesman said.

Brigadier Mohammad Bashir Suleiman said in a statement late Tuesday that Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army (SPLA) rebels attacked Kapoeta, capital of eastern equatoria state, on Monday night.

The SPLA had been trying to

recapture Kapoeta, which they lost in 1992, for sometime but this was the government's first confirmation of fighting there.

On Monday a Sudanese general said government assaults and factional fighting have broken the back of the rebels, rendering them ineffective as a fighting force.

The SPLA, which draws most of its support from the predominantly Christian and animist southern Sudanese, has been fighting against what it sees as domination by the Arabised and Muslim north since 1983.

They were beaten back, he said, describing the action as suicidal and desperate.

Brig. Suleiman said the

fall of 14 other towns and villages.

Regional commander Major General Hussein Abdallah Jibril said a government newspaper in remarks printed on Monday that large parts of the Bahr Al Ghazal region in the south were stabilised under government control.

In recent months there have been few SPLA-government battles in Bahr Al Ghazal while clashes between rival SPLA factions have been frequent, Gen. Jibril said.

Government forces recaptured it from the SPLA in May 1992 during a big army offensive which also saw the

Donors pledge \$135.4 m for UNRWA in 1995

NEW YORK — Pledges totalling \$135.4 million were announced Tuesday for the 1995 programmes of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), which provides educational service, food aid, medical services, relief and social services to the Palestinian people, the U.N. department of Information announced Wednesday.

At a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly for the announcement of voluntary contributions to UNRWA, contributions of contributions and support were made by 32 countries, as well as the European Commission and the Holy See. The largest pledges were made by the United States (\$35 million), the European Commission (\$40 million), Denmark (\$10.7 million), Switzerland

(\$7.5 million), Germany (\$6.35 million), and the Netherlands (\$5.14 million). Austria, Finland, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom announced their intention to pledge at a later date, the U.N. said.

At the start of the meeting, the president of the general assembly, Amira Essy from Cote d'Ivoire, said the agency symbolised the intention of the international community to provide assistance to the Palestinian refugees.

Stressing that the needs of the refugees remained vital, he called on governments to be generous in their assistance. The pledges made at the meeting represented a great contribution to the cause of peace and would provide assistance to the refugees until a lasting and just peace was found, he said.

Iran, Qatar want closer ties

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran's president said Wednesday that his country's good ties with Qatar were a model for other Gulf countries to follow, Tehran Radio reported.

The broadcast quoted Hashemi Rafsanjani as saying in a meeting in Tehran with Qatar's Defence Minister Sheikh Hamad Bin Abdulla Bin Khalid Al Thani, that Iran's foreign policy called for expansion of relations with all countries, especially those in the Gulf.

"They were also trying to conscript him into the army which in his condition could kill him."

"Now the doctors are writing a proper report on him to help prevent conscription and he has been given inhalers and the correct medicines."

The Christian Fellowship at Lampeter will continue to support Abel, sending him supplies of medicine on regular convoys — South Wales Evening Post.

He said ties and cooperation between Iran and Qatar could serve "as a model for other countries" in the region.

Iran has long been lobbying for an Arab-Iranian security force for the Gulf and has called for joint military exercises with other Gulf countries.

But its efforts have so far met with little enthusiasm among its Arab partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain.

Qatar, which is locked in territorial disputes with Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, has been pursuing a foreign policy increasingly independent of its Gulf Arab allies.

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Hrawi orders corruption probe

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's prosecutor-general Munif Oueidat will study files handed over by Presidents Elias Hrawi accusing two top Muslim political leaders of corruption, judicial sources said on Wednesday.

They said Mr. Hrawi delivered files on Tuesday on former parliament Speaker Hussein Husseini and former Prime Minister Omar Karame, whom he accused last week of understating the price of properties they bought in order to avoid taxes.

The accusations by Mr. Hrawi, whose own son Roy has been linked by a parliamentary deputy to drug dealing, were unprecedented. No Lebanese president has previously lodged specific corruption charges against named politicians.

Mr. Hrawi made the accusations while rallying to the defence of Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri during the weekend after he announced his resignation last Friday citing obstruction from critics accusing him of corruption.

Mr. Husseini and Mr. Karame are parliamentary deputies and have been prominent critics of Mr. Hariri and Mr. Hrawi. In the 1980s and early 1990s their offices made them the highest Shiite Muslim and Sunni Muslim officials in the state.

Mr. Hrawi stunned Lebanon's politicians last week when he indicated Mr. Karame fiddled taxes while prime minister and said he should be in jail.

"If this happened in any other country in the world, whether backward or advanced, he who did it would go to jail," Mr. Hrawi was quoted as telling Beirut's Ad-Diyar newspaper on Saturday.

He also asked pointedly why Mr. Husseini got \$8 million to buy land.

The two politicians denied the accusations, asking where Mr. Hrawi himself got the money to build a private "palace" in a Beirut suburb, and challenged him to a televised debate.

Newspaper speculated that Mr. Hrawi made the accusa-

2 warships cover Indian withdrawal from Somalia

MOADISHU (R) — An Indian naval task force of four warships steamed into the southern Somalia port of Kismayu on Wednesday to withdraw the

Indian U.N. troops. A staff of the Belgianency Medicines Sans Frontieres (MSF) Doctors without Borders said inter-clan fighting broke out in the city centre Wednesday morning.

U.N. military spokesman for Zubair Chattha said three ships would provide sea support for the withdrawal of the Indian force in Somalia.

It appears the fighting has started even before the Indians have gone," said Mr. Robays, who left Kismayu late on Tuesday. All other international aid workers have quit the city because of fears the Indian withdrawal would trigger renewed clashes.

Two Bangladeshi U.N. soldiers and a number of Somalis were wounded on Tuesday when U.N. peacekeepers fought their way out of the town of Afgoye with tanks and helicopter gunships before the end of March. Indian U.N. troops have already withdrawn from Kismayu city centre to the sea-port and on Tuesday handed over the airport control tower and landing strip to the new-

ly-formed district council.

A total of 150 Indian troops left Kismayu by air on Tuesday.

Possession of the air and sea ports is disputed by Marewan and Harte clans. Tension between them has reportedly been high for two years of foreign military intervention.

Gummen from the Murasade and Abgal clans clashed in the Medina district of the Somali capital Mogadishu on Tuesday and witnessed said two wounded gunmen were admitted to the MSF-hospital.

They said Murasade militiamen fired on an Abgal "technical" battlewagon moving near their defensive positions on Tuesday and fighting continued through the night.

Hundreds of local residents were fleeing the area, which has been hit by intermittent inter-clan fighting since September.

The Egyptian ambassador to Somalia visited warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed at his Mogadishu headquarters on Tuesday.

DOCTORS at a Swansea hospital may have saved the life of a young Romanian man with chronic chest problems.

Local aid worker George Kirk said the Swansea visit could mean the difference between life and death for Abel.

He said: "They didn't know what was wrong with him over there and he was being given drugs which were useless."

They were also trying to conscript him into the army which in his condition could kill him.

He was also facing conscription into the army — a move which in his condition could have killed him.

Now he has been flown to the UK for urgent treatment.

Chest expert Dr. Abdul Rahman Anani at Swansea's Sancta Maria Hospital has properly diagnosed Abel as a chronic asthmatic and given him vital drugs to help him lead a more normal life.

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CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

La Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terracotta Church Tel. 622466

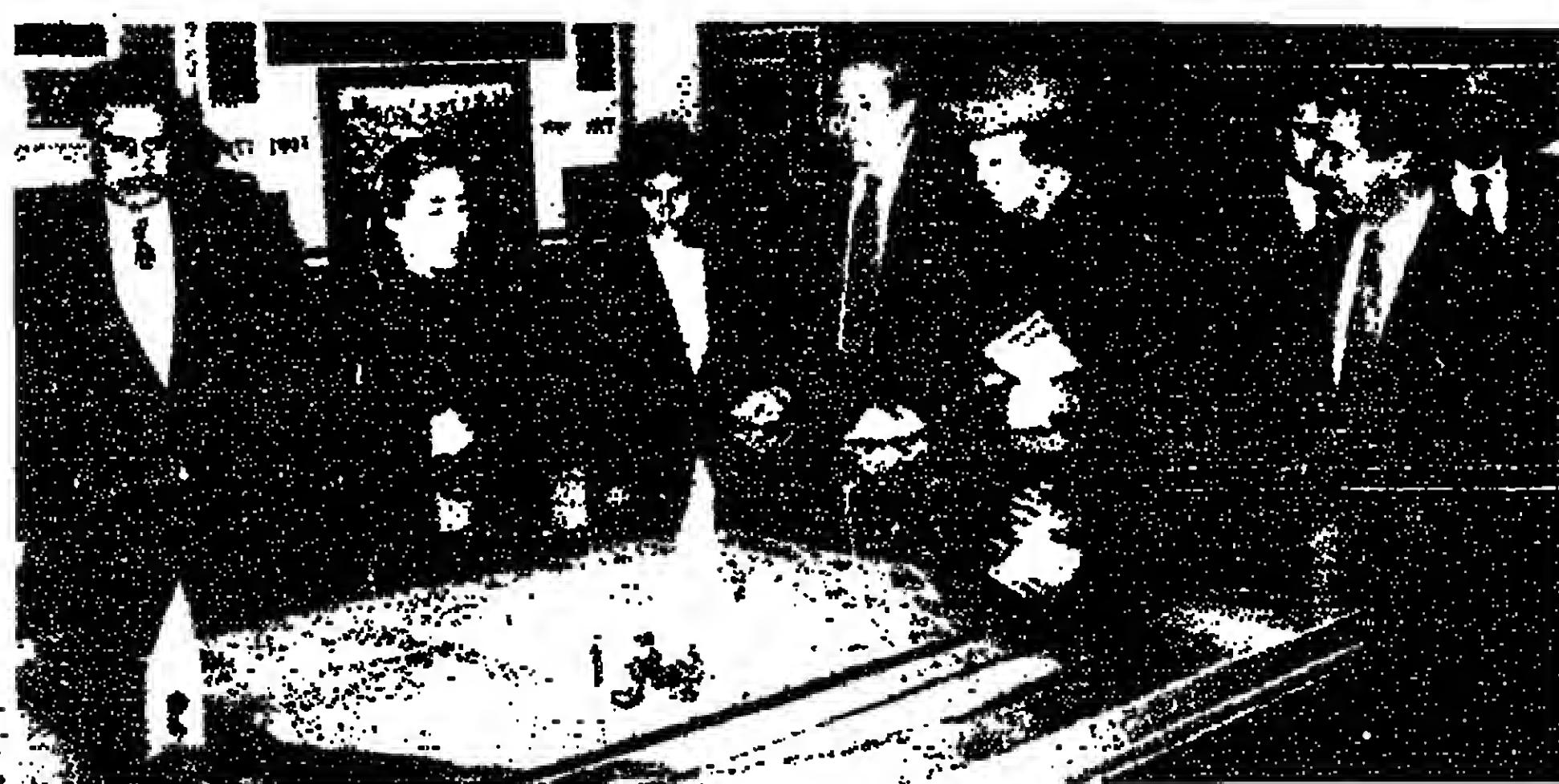
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

American Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 623543

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be sunny with temperatures rising further, but remaining slightly below average. Winds will be southerly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.



Her Majesty Queen Beatrix and His Royal Highness Prince Claus, accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Sumaya and Minister of Tourism and Antiquities

Mohammad Adwan Wednesday view a scale model of the Byzantine church at Mount Nebo (Petra photo)

Queen Beatrix, Prince Claus visit Mount Nebo, APC plant

MADABA (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands and her husband His Royal Highness Prince Claus Wednesday visited Mount Nebo west of Madaba accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Sumaya, Bint Al Hassan and the Dutch delegation.

Kheiriah Amr, of the Department of Antiquities, presented a briefing on the historical site and the ancient church dating back to the fifth and sixth centuries A.D. Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Adwan presented the Queen with a book on the mosaics of Jordan as well as a

silver ornament representing a traditional handicraft of the Jordan.

Later, Princess Sumaya accompanied Queen Beatrix and Prince Claus on a tour of the Arab Potash Company (APC) plants near the southern tip of the Dead Sea, where they were received by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Talal Ureigat as well as APC General Suleiman Hawari and other officials.

The Queen was briefed on the first expansion project, which was inaugurated by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan last June, to boost by 400,000 tonnes the potash production in Jordan.

The APC now produces 1.8 million tonnes of potash annually as a result of the first expansion phase.

The second phase of expansion calls for raising the annual output to 2.2 million by the year 1998.

The APC director explained the production process and marketing of the potash. Mr. Hawari presented Queen Beatrix with a replica of the ancient city of Petra and another representing the Church of Nativity in Bethlehem as well as samples of the potash produced at the plant.

Despite the limited assistance Jordan receives from

Chamber of commerce elections experience heightened competition

By Amy Henderson
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian Contractor's Union building has probably never seen so much activity in one day — from the inside, standing room was limited, and from the outside, it took a bit of pushing, shoving and handshaking to get through the door. By the looks of things, it could have been the men's club social occasion of the year. In fact, it was the Amman Chamber of Commerce's event of the year — chamber elections.

This year's elections are probably the most competitive in the chamber's 71-year history. Merchants and observers attributed the heightened competition to the fact that Jordan's economy and economic outlook are expected to change for the better. Liberalisation and modernisation of Jordan's economic laws, a recent peace treaty with Israel and Jordan's bid for GATT membership bode well for business in Amman. Chamber members are looking for a new board that can propel the private sector into the new era.

"Our economic future is related to Israel," said Mowaffaq Marqaq, an Amman textiles merchant. "The upcoming board, whoever wins, won't have a choice. Things are moving (towards trade with Israel). We need a board that knows how to manage this."

Also, said one member, the chamber is anxious to take part in the Jordan economic decision and wants a board that can interact and cooperate with government efficiently to ensure a

strong private sector role in the future.

There are nearly twice as many candidates running in this election as ran in 1990 — 44 candidates were making bids for the 12-seat board this year, eight independent candidates and three groups boasting 12 candidates each. Most candidates could be found yesterday winding their way through the mob of voters, passing out campaign flyers, making eleventh-hour efforts to recruit votes in the chamber.

Traditionally, the chamber seats have gone to candidates running in groups. In the last election, for example, the 12 seats were divided between the Al Amal and Al Taweez groups, which claimed seven and five seats respectively. But talk in the voting booth yesterday didn't indicate any clear leaders.

Voters at the contractors building yesterday said that if they were hard pressed to name a group that could claim a majority of seats, they would say Haider Murad's Al Wifaq — but nothing is certain in this election.

Even the candidates agreed on

one thing: that problems can only be settled through dia-

logue and meetings at the negotiating table to safeguard all parties' rights, the statement urged Russia and the Chechen republic to opt for reason and negotiations and avoid heavy losses in life and property.

The Lower House of Parliament supports the Chechens' right to self-determination and calls on the Russian Federation to deal with the Chechen republic in the same manner as it did with the other republics which chose independence.

Last week, the Chechen community in Jordan issued a statement in support of President Dzhokhar Dudayev and appealed to His Majesty King Hussein and the international community to uphold the freedom and independence of the Chechen republic in the face of what they called "Russian aggression."

Russian President Boris Yeltsin had issued an ultimatum to the Chechen republic to submit to Russian constitutional rule to avoid the imposition of the state of emergency and a possible Russian invasion.

Shekel makes entry on Jordanian market

AMMAN (AFP) — The Israeli shekel has entered the Jordanian exchange market but with only a limited demand so far, banking officials said Wednesday.

At 7:00 p.m., Issam Khanib, president of the elections overseeing committee, said that 3,985 members (out of 26,000 chamber members) had cast their votes.

The committee predicted that about 20-25 per cent of chamber members would vote in these elections — par for chamber elections. The final announcement on the new board and chamber president was expected to be announced early this morning.

Branches of Jordanian banks on the crossing between the two countries have

started trading in the shekel, but demand was "still very limited," said Ayman Beshawi, from the Housing Bank branch in the northern crossing on the Jordan River.

The Central Bank of Jordan (CBI) on Monday authorised banks and dealers to trade in shekels in line with the October 26 Jordan-Israel peace treaty.

One shekel was buying for JD 0.20 and selling for JD 0.23 Wednesday, he said.

Israelis entering Jordan usually buy between JD 50 to JD 100, while demand for the shekel is "almost nil" as few Jordanians go to Israel, he told AFP.

RCC to receive \$430,000 in new equipment from Japan

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) today (Thursday) will take delivery of \$430,000 worth of new audio and visual equipment which will be provided as part of a cultural grant aid programme presented by the Japanese government.

According to RCC Director Iyad Qattan, the grant is part of a Japanese government allocation in its budget to support cultural centres and cultural activities worldwide.

He said that one major item will replace the 14-year-old, outdated audio machine at the centre.

Mr. Qattan added that another item, a complete studio set, should contribute greatly to the centre's musical and artistic activities.

Mr. Qattan said part of the grant went towards a video production system.

"I think that is the first time in the history of the centre we

have a complete set of equipment, and that would not have happened without the generous help of the Japanese government," Mr. Qattan told the Jordan Times.

According to the RCC director, a team of technicians arrived from Japan to supervise the installation of the equipment.

The Japanese Cultural Grant Programme aims at encouraging and enhancing artistic and cultural activities,

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

* Film entitled "The Sword in the Stone" at the American Center on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

CHOIR

* Choir concert at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS BAZAARS

* Christmas bazaar (to include foodstuffs, handicrafts, Christmas shopping, and games) at Al Nujum Hall, near Martyrs' Monument on Friday (9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.) (Tel. 682387).

* The German Speaking Ladies Christmas bazaar at the Amman Marriott Hotel on Friday (11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.).

LECTURE

* Lecture entitled "The Petra Ethnoarchaeological Project" by Dr. Steven Simms of Utah State University at the American Center for Oriental Research (ACOR) on Thursday 7:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Exhibition of home furnishings and furniture entitled "Colours and Crafts" at Queen Alia Fund's new offices, Al Madina Al Munawara Street.

* Exhibition of portraits by Fahrelnissa Zeid and the exhibition of contemporary Arab artist at Darat Al Funun.

* Exhibition of oil paintings by Salman Abbas at Alia Art Gallery.

* Exhibition of abstract by several artists at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.

* Exhibition of paintings by Ismail and Tamam Shammout at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

* Exhibition of Muna Saudi's private collection of contemporary arts and Jordanian antiques at Abdoun Village (Tel. 829700).

* Exhibition of paintings by Sadik Kwaish at the French Cultural Centre.

* Exhibition by Akram Naji Shaker at Ab'aad Art Gallery.

* Exhibition of paintings by Dr. Ali Al Ghoul at the Italian Language Centre (Tel. 66948).

* Exhibition by artists Latif Al Khateeb and Muhy Khaleefa at the Housing Bank Gallery.

'U.S. aid is not conditional upon Jordan's policies'

AMMAN (Petra) — Defending U.S. aid to Jordan, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Hassan said Wednesday that such aid has no strings attached.

Speaking in Parliament, the minister, replying to a query by Deputy Bassam Emoush on whether U.S. aid was linked to Jordan's signing of the peace treaty with Israel, said Jordan, like other countries, has been receiving aid from the United States as well as from many other countries, but the U.S. aid has no conditions attached to it, nor does it affect the Kingdom's national policies.

Mr. Al Hassan said the aid that Jordan receives from Washington and other sources is well-utilised in a manner that serves the country's development schemes.

Despite the limited assistance Jordan receives from

Washington, the Kingdom considers the United States as one of its major creditors, currently playing a vital role at the Paris and London clubs to helping Amman with debt relief, said the minister.

He said the government received no message that U.S. aid to the Kingdom would be contingent upon signing a peace treaty with Israel.

In response to why a gift of 50 tonnes of rice from Egypt to the Ministry of Supply was not distributed to the needy, Minister Adel Qudah told the House that the rice, which was sold to restaurants, hotels and private citizens, came as a gift to his ministry and not to the Ministry of Social Development. He added that there was no law that allowed the minister to give the rice free to the public.

Ministry to award 2000 scholarships

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Higher Education has made available 2,000 scholarships for the 1994-95 academic year of students who passed the Tawjih examination in 1994, according to a senior ministry official Wednesday.

Nawaf Etaiwi, director of the Scholarships Department at the ministry, said the scholarships are for students in their freshman year at state universities, and will be granted during the second semester of the current academic year.

The scholarships will be

announced after the 1995 fiscal budget, Mr. Etaiwi said, adding that 20 per cent of the scholarships will be assigned to needy students whose families receive financial help from the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF), the National Aid Fund (NAF) and the Zakat Fund.

will benefit the first ten men and first 10 women students in the literary and scientific streams of the Tawjih examination, as well as 10 scholarships for the first ten in the industrial, commercial and nursing streams, five for the first five students in the agricultural stream and three for the hotel management stream.

Mr. Etaiwi said that six scholarships have been assigned to students nominated by the Scouts and Girl Guides associations and five to those excelling in sports, who will be nominated by the Jordan Olympic Committee.

The rest of the scholarships

3 sentenced to 13 years for raping 11-year-old

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Amman criminal court Tuesday sentenced three men, aged 27, 28 and 30, to 13 years in prison with hard labour for raping an 11-year-old girl on the Amman-Aqaba highway last spring. The girl was said to tell the police about the incident.

Based on the victim's de-

scription, police apprehended one of the suspects who led them to the other two, court papers said.

Mohammad Kayed, the defense attorney, said his clients were appealing the verdict because of the contradictory testimony of the victim.

"The testimony and facts of the three men took the girl to a deserted area and raped her several times, then released her," the child was later picked up by police who found her wandering alone in Aqaba. The girl was said to tell the police about the incident.

Court documents said that the three men received a ten-year sentence for rape and an additional three years because the victim was a minor.

Court papers said that on March 20, 1994, Hakeem Awad, Salem Halli, and Suleiman Ali, picked up the victim, Amneh H., from the highway near Petra, and told her they would give her a ride to her home.

The court documents said

the three men took the girl to a deserted area and raped her several times, then released her.

The child was later picked up by police who found her wandering alone in Aqaba. The girl was said to tell the police about the incident.

The girl told police do not match her testimonies in the court," Mr. Kayed said.

Woman found murdered

Meanwhile, police are searching for a suspect in connection with the mysterious death of a 43-year-old woman who was found stabbed in an apartment in Al Rawdah Housing Complex Tuesday morning, a

World Bank urges immediate action to save region's environment

By Cathy King
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An environmental strategy could, in 10 years, save the Middle East and North Africa region billions of dollars, but only if action begins now, says a World Bank report.

The World Bank Wednesday called for immediate action to confront the environmental crisis in the Arab World and said it would consider increasing its regional lending for environmental projects to \$1 billion annually.

In a half-day symposium on an environmental strategy for the Middle East and North Africa at the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) yesterday, Division Chief of the World Bank's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region Ananya Seth said that neglect of the environment currently costs the region \$12-14 billion a year, almost three per cent of its annual gross domestic product (GDP).

"Conservative estimates show water and air pollution, together with land degradation, are now costing Arab states more than \$10 billion a year or about 3% of GDP... and health costs alone of pollution-related diseases account for well over half of that total," said Mr. Seth.

During a technical presentation, chaired by RSCN President Anis Muasher and attended by around 50 people representing non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and

the academic community, Mr. Seth outlined the environmental strategy as detailed in a 78-page report.

According to the report, about 45 million Arabs of the total 240 million inhabiting the region, live in cities with air pollution levels higher than those set down by World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines.

The report indicates that 95 million Arabs lack safe sanitation, while the water consumption levels of nine Arab countries outpace renewable water supplies.

Jordan and the Gaza Strip both use more than 100 per cent of their renewable water supplies, Mr. Seth said.

In addition the report writes that thousands of hectares of land are lost each year to desertification.

"Current environmental trends could be reversed if, over 10 years, \$58-78 billion or 1.3-1.8% of the regional GDP was invested in the environment," said Mr. Seth.

He said that there was a potential to mobilise \$40.7 billion of annual resources which could be released by phasing out energy and water subsidies, by taxing leaded gasoline and by imposing environment or "sin" taxes on high pollution emitters such as "dirty industries."

He gave the following strategy recommendations for the Middle East and North Africa: Strengthening the capacity of environmental institutions and pub-

lic participation; intensifying the management of scarce natural resources; and the arrest of emerging pollution problems.

In a call for action, Mr. Seth urged Arab countries to urgently review their existing environmental strategies and set immediate priorities on institutional building, to seriously examine options to mobilise resources and public opinion for fighting natural resource scarcity and pollution.

Italy's 'clean hands' team vows to continue graft war

ROME (Agencies) — Investigators on Italy's "clean hands" team vowed Wednesday to continue their war on graft despite the bombshell resignation of Antonio Di Pietro, symbol of the country's anti-corruption drive.

But as a stunned nation digested news of Mr. Di Pietro's departure, many editorial writers said the magistrate's decision to hang up his robes could spell the end of Italy's long and tortured search for moral and political renewal.

"The sheriff has been dismissed. The cattle rustlers are rejoicing. It's party time again at the saloon," wrote Enzo Biagi, one of Italy's most respected political commentators.

Mr. Di Pietro, spearhead of almost three years of dogged inquiries that toppled a corrupt political old guard, announced his decision to leave the judiciary in an emotional letter Tuesday to Milan's Chief Prosecutor Francesco Saverio Borrelli.

The star of the city's clean hands pool of anti-graft magistrates and a national hero, said his work had become the target of a political tug-of-war.

"I feel used, taken advantage of... by those who want me against their enemy and by those that want to say that I have a non-existent political motive," he said.

Mr. Borrelli and Gerardo D'Ambrosio, coordinator of the pool, said investigations would not be hampered by Mr. Di Pietro's exit.

Cambodian army captures rebel stronghold

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodian government troops have captured the strategically important Khmer Rouge guerrilla stronghold of Phnom Kulen in the northwest of the country, a senior government spokesman said Wednesday.

Information Ministry official Sieng Lapresse told a weekly news briefing that the army was reinforcing the mountain base to prevent the rebels from retaking it.

Mr. Lapresse, citing a Defense Ministry official, said Phnom Kulen, about 60 kilometres north of the provincial capital of Siem Reap, had been seized about two weeks ago.

There has been no independent confirmation of the government claim and no casualty figures given. However, if the report is true, it would result in much greater security for the province which is home to the ancient Angkor Temples, Cambodia's biggest tourist attraction.

Phnom Kulen is best known as the site from which the sandstone blocks were quarried to construct the ancient Angkor temples.

The small-scale operation involved about 400 government soldiers and 150 Khmer Rouge defectors.

Until its capture, the mountain had served as a base for an estimated 400 Khmer Rouge guerrillas, officials said.

In another development, Khmer Rouge guerrillas burnt down almost 150 houses in raids on two villages in the northwest province of Battambang earlier this month, the spokesman said, citing a report from a top Battambang official.

He added that a group of rebels had also infiltrated the province's Bavel district and harvested five or six hectares of rice fields belonging to local villagers.

The Cambodian daily Wednesday reported that more than 100 rebels had tried to destroy two key bridges 13 kilometres north of Battambang late Monday night, but had been repulsed by about 120 armed policemen.

The O-Taki Railroad Bridge and a road bridge, only 300 metres apart at one section of National Route Five, have both suffered damage in earlier rebel attacks.

Meanwhile, Renegade Cambodian government soldiers raided a restaurant in Thailand early Wednesday, killing two police officers and robbing customers and staff, a Thai official said here.

"This office has broad shoulders. It is very rich in resources," Mr. Borrelli told Corriere Della Sera newspaper. Mr. D'Ambrosio added: "We'll do everything to keep up the rhythm of the clean hands investigation."

Milan's magistrates have for months been locked in a battle with the government of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, himself under investigation for alleged corruption.

They are due later this month to question the media tycoon turned politician, who shot to power in March elections with promises to clean up Italy.

Mr. Berlusconi, who has accused the Milan pool of a political conspiracy to bring him down, said Tuesday Mr. Di Pietro's resignation left a "bitter taste."

But he also urged a return to "normality and balance in the administration of justice" after 34 months of headline-hogging probes that devastated an entire political class.

The prime minister's supporters say Mr. Di Pietro had simply had enough of being exploited by the left.

Opposition politicians said Mr. Di Pietro had been hounded out and they feared the Milan magistrates were losing a power struggle with the government.

Similar concerns peppered newspaper columns Wednesday.

Forattini, Italy's leading political cartoonist, summed up many views on the front page of La Repubblica newspaper:

paper with a solid black square in place of his normal satirical sketch.

La Stampa leader writer Ezio Mauro commented: "Antonio Di Pietro sacrificed himself yesterday on the true, great Italian altar: The impossibility of change."

Mr. Di Pietro's resignation will not become fully effective until it has been considered by Italy's Superior Council of Magistrates (CSM), the judiciary's ruling body.

Politicians across the spectrum and President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, the CSM chairman and a former magistrate himself, have urged the crusading prosecutor to review his decision.

"A real magistrate wears his robes on his soul, not on his shoulders. I, in my very modest way, have never taken them off. He should not take his off even from his shoulders," Mr. Scalfaro said Tuesday night.

Mr. Di Pietro, a 44-year-old former policeman from Italy's poor south, appeared in a brief interview with La Repubblica to scotch strong speculation that he could now enter politics.

Repeated opinion polls have named him as the man Italians would most like to lead the country.

Mr. Di Pietro said previous reports that he could return to his home village and take up farming were no joke. "I don't know what life has in store for me. I need a bit of time, then we'll see," he said.

Mr. Di Pietro stayed home

Wednesday as declarations of support continued to flood in reaction to news of his resignation.

Officials said Mr. Di Pietro stayed at his house in Bergamo, about 50 kilometres from Milan Wednesday along with his usual police escort.

But some of his associates at the Milan prosecutor's office said they hoped the judge would reconsider his decision and carry on with his anti-corruption crusade.

"We are waiting for him (...) and we hope he will change his mind," said one member of the prosecutor's office.

Mr. Di Pietro was expected at the courthouse Wednesday afternoon to deal with some unfinished business before going on vacation, judicial sources said.

They added that he has two months of vacation left before his resignation takes effect.

The daily Corriere Della Sera speculated Wednesday that perhaps the judge would reconsider his decision after his vacation.

"Meanwhile, his resignation is on hold," the paper said.

But judicial sources insisted that legally the judge had not resigned since he did not send a letter to that effect to the high court.

The Corriere, which usually has access to reliable judicial information, said that the judge "had partially reconsidered his decision" following two phone calls from President Scalfaro.

Clinton's friend pleads guilty in Whitewater case

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (AFP) — A former top Justice Department official and friend of President Clinton pleaded guilty to mail fraud and tax evasion in an agreement with the Whitewater special prosecutor.

Prosecutors are seeking to determine whether funds from Madison Guaranty were diverted to Mr. Clinton for political campaigns or whether Mr. Clinton's administration interfered with the investigation in its early stages.

Mr. Clinton, who has denied any wrongdoing in the Whitewater case, said he was sorry about the indictment.

"Webb Hubbell is an old friend and Hillary and I were saddened by today's events," he said in a statement in Washington, adding it would be inappropriate to say any further because of the court case.

Mr. Hubbell was accused of overbilling clients at his Little Rock law firm — where Hillary Clinton was also a partner while her husband was governor — by some \$394,000 between 1989 and 1993, and underreporting his

taxable income.

The Rose Law Firm had to the failed savings institution, Madison Guaranty, that is at the heart of the investigation, but the charges against Mr. Hubbell were not directly related to the original Whitewater probe.

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taxable income.

The study said two rocky flats building that were more than 35 years old were the most vulnerable because of their flaws and the amounts of plutonium they held.

The study, begun in March, said the flats at the ageing plants mostly pose a risk to plant workers, but could also harm the general public.

"These vulnerabilities have been caused by degradation in plutonium materials and packaging, and weaknesses in facilities and administrative controls that can result in inadvertent releases of plutonium that can expose workers and the public, or contaminate the environment," the study said.

Besides packaging that is inadequate for long-term use and is often the only barrier that separates workers from plutonium, the study said the facilities have ageing safety systems and design flaws that weaken their ability to weather events such as fires or earthquakes.

"In addition to their impact on workers, such large-scale events have the potential to release plutonium that could affect the public and

the environment," the study said.

Tara O'Toole, Assistant Energy Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health, told a news briefing the chances of harm to the Clinton and others in the state of Arkansas.

Indian police arrested a member of parliament and her husband after their high-caste political supporters stoned the senior civil servant to death.

Hindu politician shot dead in India

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Gunmen shot dead a right-wing Hindu politician as he stepped out from a car in the eastern Indian state of Bihar Wednesday, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

Srirang Rai, a local leader of the Hindu-revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party), was shot in Mapra district, was caused by a huge explosion, triggering a chain of smaller explosions along gas mains which ignited a rash of secondary fires.

The fire was extinguished at 7:00 p.m. (1000 GMT). Earlier the fire levelled

houses and small shops

200 metres away from the site

of the first explosion, a small park.

Three floors of a nearby Daewoo conglomerate high-rise were also gutted by flames and the premises were awash with water spurting from ruptured water mains, television reports said.

Police said they could not give a complete toll. Television said four people were missing and 41 seriously burned in the blaze, which gutted a 15-storey office building and about 40 homes.

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World News

Maltese Falco
sells for \$300



A Bosnian government soldier instructs recruits how to aim and fire a rocket-propelled grenade from a rifle at a barracks in the Serb besieged Bosnian capital (AFP photo)

U.K. government raises rates after tax defeat

LONDON (R) — Britain's government, struggling to repair damage inflicted by a staggering parliamentary defeat that punched a big hole in its budget, raised interest rates Wednesday in a move to steady the shaky pound.

The Bank of England announced it was raising rates by half a percentage point to 6.25 per cent.

Prime Minister John Major now faces a huge task to shore up his weakening grip in his Conservative Party, humiliatingly exposed by Tuesday night's defeat in which 15 legislators deserted their government.

They torpedoed plans to double value-added tax (VAT) on home heating fuel,

forcing Finance Minister Kenneth Clarke to scramble to repair his budget.

Financial markets had been expecting rate rise to 6% in economic growth, which has threatened to set off renewed inflation, but

were surprised by the speed of the move following Tuesday's vote.

Commercial banks followed suit by raising their base lending rates, but some leading mortgage lenders said they would not be passing on the increase. Shares and bonds rose as dealers' firm struck of leadership.

The defeat has raised doubts Mr. Major's ability to soldier on at the head of a divided and demoralised party until the next general election, which must be held by mid-1997.

But the rate rise underlined that Mr. Major has no intention of resigning or calling an early general election.

"To keep the government in power, the parliamentary party must act as a party of government," Mr. Clarke told BBC Radio.

"Let's have a bit of common sense and less of this populism."

He was speaking hours after the House of Commons (lower house) carried an opposition Labour Party resolution against the VAT on fuel, a measure with which he had hoped would raise £1.5 billion (\$2.35 billion) in revenues.

Mr. Clarke is due to announce alternative measures to raise the cash Thursday, a humbling process for a finance minister who announced his budget plans only last week.

Opposition leaders, delighted by an eight-vote majority against the widely derided measure, claimed it showed a dying, discredited administration.

"The government can't even get its own budget through," Labour leader Tony Blair said. "It is terminally incapable of asserting authority in its own party."

Paddy Ashdown, leader of the minority Liberal Democrats, said: "You have a party

which has lost the trust of its own organisation on the backbenches, lost the trust of the House of Commons and lost the ability to govern again."

Right-wing Conservatives said the government brought about its own downfall in the vote by expelling eight members from the parliamentary party last week for defying it in a vote on Britain's contributions to the European Union budget.

Former Interior Minister Kenneth Baker described the move as "crass stupidity."

Seven of the eight expelled

members failed to support the government in Tuesday night's vote, with one declaring that, but for the expulsion, he would have reluctantly obeyed the instructions of party business managers.

The expulsions mean the Conservatives have technically lost their overall majority in parliament, and further defeats could follow.

Mexico government manoeuvres to avert Chiapas conflict

Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico (AFP) — The government of Mexico's ousted Chiapas province is offered to stand down if rebels threatened renewed fighting if he is sworn in.

Comm. Marcos said the Zapatistas would recognise no governor other than Mario Avendano, the candidate of the opposition Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), which claims the August polls were rigged.

Comm. Marcos urged Mr. Avendano to form a "people's rebel government" in Chiapas.

The Mexican government meanwhile raced against the clock to avert a looming confrontation in Chiapas. The showdown is shaping up as an important first test for President Ernesto Zedillo who took office last week.

About 2,000 mostly indigenous Mexicans, heading calls

from the opposition Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), and other groups, are converging on Tuxtla Gutierrez, the provincial capital to challenge the planned inauguration of the PRI candidate.

Mr. Robledo won the Aug. 21 gubernatorial elections, but the PRD denounced him as a "phenomenal fraud" who stole the race.

The PRD's candidate Mario Avendano has urged supporters to occupy the governor's palace, while the PRI has summoned its backers to rally at the palace.

The PRD anticipates that some 30,000 supporters will show up while the PRI expects some 60,000 for the inaugural ceremony.

Authorities are concerned that violence might flare between the two groups since a mock swearing in ceremony

for Mr. Avendano has been planned to coincide with Mr. Robledo's inauguration at Tuxtla Gutierrez's central square.

The Interior Ministry announced Monday that it had reached an agreement with Mr. Avendano to "avoid any provocation" when Mr. Robledo is inaugurated. But no fundamental solution to the conflict was proposed and the ministry said only that the parties had agreed to "guarantee the tranquility and the peace, and to respect the rights of all who protest peacefully."

In Mexico City meanwhile, Mr. Zedillo told members of Congress he hoped to reach a negotiated settlement that would be an "honourable, just and definitive" solution to the problems in the impoverished southern state.

Clinton team: Cooperation with Congress possible

ASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton's incoming treasury secretary is the man named to replace him both said Wednesday that cooperation with the Republican Congress was possible, and not to count the president out.

"Let me tell you something, but this president," said Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen, who announced today that he was stepping down to return to the private sector.

The statement was issued yesterday from rebel-held

we and the Congress work together, and he's prepared to do anything possible within the context of his principles to govern and to make sure that we continue on the track of facing the big issues that are going to affect the future of this country and deal with them effectively," said Mr. Rubin in an interview on U.S. television.

Both also predicted few changes in the Clinton team's economic policies.

"What we need to do is weigh the relative needs with respect to the economy, with respect to further deficit — well, one thing we must do is stay on the track we're on," said Mr. Rubin.

Mr. Clinton defended his track record before moderate Democrats who blamed him for their mid-term election debacle, and called on them to work together to advance the party's programme.

Speaking late Tuesday at a dinner with the Democratic Leadership Council (DLC), Mr. Clinton called on its members to "join me in the arena, not in the peanut gallery... and fight and roll up our sleeves and be willing to make a mistake now and again."

Mr. Clinton's extemporaneous remarks were partly directed to DLC Chairman Dave McCurdy, who earlier in the day called the president a "transitional figure" who had confused the public by pursuing a moderate and liberal agenda at the same time.

Mr. McCurdy's remarks reflected the bitterness of the Democrats' loss by both

houses of Congress to the Republicans, for the first time in 40 years, in the Nov. 8 mid-term elections. Mr. McCurdy himself was defeated in a Senate bid in Oklahoma.

In his defence, Mr. Clinton enumerated his accomplishments since he took office in January 1993, including reducing the deficit, increasing trade and job creation, all within the scope of the "New Democrat" agenda adopted five years ago by his party.

He complained that the Republicans were claiming as their own efforts to cut the deficit, fight crime and reduce the size of the federal government.

If the Republicans want to do more... Let's have a partnership, let's have it at," Mr. Clinton said, while imploring the Democrats not to "walk away from the fact that we started it and we intend to finish it."

To regain the ground lost in the past elections, he said, the Democrats needed to convince the working class that they stand to benefit from their political programme because it will lead to a smaller, less intrusive government and to more and better jobs.

Meanwhile House Republicans Tuesday voted to effectively shut down 28 congressional special interest groups, including the powerful Black Caucus, in an effort to show what business as usual in Washington was over.

"This is the year to decisively shrink the Congress," said incoming House Speaker Newt Gingrich of Georgia

who called the groups funded through annual dues from lawmakers' taxpayer-provided office accounts, "scandals waiting to explode."

During a second day of organisational meetings, Republicans, who will control the House in January for the first time in 40 years, also elected two women to party leadership posts and proposed selling a congressional office building, but deferred a vote on cutting lawmakers' staff.

Republicans have long sought changes in the so-called legislative service organisations, which they complain existed to advance the interests of the Democratic Party and were never adequately audited or overseen.

"Anyone who's ever spent a day on Capitol Hill knows what will happen if the Republicans get their way and force these (organisations) into their paper shredder. The U.S. Congress will be less informed, less effective," said House Democratic leader Richard Gephardt and David Bonior.

Under the resolution passed by the Republicans, lawmakers will no longer be able to provide funding or office space to the groups, which collected \$3 million in the past decade.

Some of the influential groups denied funding by the vote include the bipartisan Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the Democratic Study Group and the Republic Study Committee.

NATO seeks troop indications for U.N. pullout from Bosnia

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO decided Wednesday to ask member states how many troops they might be willing to contribute to any operation to pull U.N. peacekeeping forces out of Bosnia, NATO sources said.

"Military authorities have received permission to go out and ask countries to indicate their initial possibilities of contributing (to a pull-out enabling force)," one source said.

The sources said NATO ambassadors at their weekly meeting approved the request from the military authorities to go ahead with contingency planning for a possible withdrawal in hostile conditions of the 23,000 U.N. peacekeeping troops in Bosnia.

They said 20,000 to 25,000 troops would be required to undertake such an operation.

France has asked the United Nations and NATO to prepare a detailed plan to withdraw U.N. peacekeeping forces from former Yugoslavia, Foreign Minister Alain Juppe told the French National Assembly Wednesday.

Mr. Juppe said it was "our duty" to ask the U.N. and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) to prepare a detailed withdrawal plan for the peacekeepers. The French government had already made the request, he said.

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troops would be required to undertake such an operation.

The foreign minister said "the decision we are being forced to take, for lack of determination by the international community, will endanger war, that is to say more tragedy and more suffering for the people."

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"We express readiness to immediately bring war to an end and open negotiations on the revision and the betterment of the plan to make the overall package acceptable," the statement added.

It said Bosnian Serbs heard "new interpretations" of the contact group plan under which further work on a map and definition of constitutional arrangements was possible.

The statement was issued at a press conference attended by Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and the Bosnian Serb parliamentary assembly's foreign affairs spokesman Aleks Buha after their delegation held talks in Belgrade Monday.

Mr. Buha said there had been "approaches and initiatives from various directions."

"These were passed on by Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic after talks in Belgrade Monday with the foreign ministers of Britain and France, Douglas Hurd and Alan Juppe, and in contacts with the co-presidents of the Geneva peace talks,"

Jordan Times

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New name for old war

IT WAS inevitable that sooner or later Moscow would not see eye to eye with Washington in spite of all the efforts of the U.S. and other Western countries to come to the rescue of the Russian Federation economically or otherwise in the wake of the collapse of the former Soviet Union. The best evidence of this return to superpower rivalry was the just concluded Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

By all conservative estimates, the Budapest gathering was a big failure in its efforts to set new standards for settling European conflicts. Not only did the participants fail to agree on Bosnia, they also heard some nasty words addressed to U.S. President Clinton by none others than Russian President Boris Yeltsin. In a hitherto unknown harsh and blunt language, President Yeltsin told his U.S. counterpart not to deceive himself into believing that Moscow is no longer on the geo-political map. "I hope you (Clinton) clearly understand my words when I said that the destiny of the whole world must not be decided in one capital," were the stunning words the Russian President used to rebuke the U.S. for trying to dominate the international stage. This stance may have been prompted by NATO efforts to incorporate Eastern European nations, which Moscow views as unacceptable. In the background, there is of course the Bosnian conflict which is the other bone of contention between the two powers.

We have seen Moscow flex its political muscle elsewhere in the world, in direct competition with the West. Iraq is a case in point of where Moscow moved in an opposite direction from that dictated by Washington and its principal allies. Chechnya is another example.

It could be that Yeltsin, by taking this new line, is trying to bolster his position at home where he faces many challenges to his leadership. It is also possible that Moscow is genuinely concerned about being left out of the Western military club and become an easy prey to NATO at the end of the day. But whatever the reasons for the increased friction between Moscow and Washington, there are signs that the cold era that once dominated their relationships could now be replaced by a new rivalry whose rules and conditions are not clearly defined yet.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE PEACE treaty with Israel, signed on Oct. 26, remains weak and exposed to dangers from all sides unless provided with protection and backed financially to survive, according to Fahd Fanek, a writer in Al Ra'i daily Wednesday. When Jordan signed the peace treaty with Israel it was hoping that the western nations would promptly come to its side and support its endeavours by deeds rather than words; the Kingdom therefore did not place any conditions for concluding the treaty, because it would have looked as if it was asking for a bribe, the writer pointed out. He said that now that no meaningful help is forthcoming and the country's foreign debts are not written off, the Jordanian people are justified in feeling frustrated and bitter. Indeed, Europe, the United States and Japan have been seeking to establish peace in this region for a long time and therefore, said the writer, these influential powers are morally bound to come to the help of this country as soon as possible to show their satisfaction with the achievement of the treaty on the one hand and to give further impetus towards the establishment of a comprehensive peace on the other.

TAREQ MASARWEH, a writer in Al Ra'i daily, dwelt on the repercussions of the resignation of Deputy Premier Thouqan Hindawi echoing speculations about an imminent change of government. Any reshuffled or new government, he said, ought to give due attention to internal affairs which, he said, are in need of stricter control. The writer said that taking care of such issues as the economy, investments, administrative reforms and building strong relations with the other Arab states should be the main concern of this country in the new era. Referring to the outgoing minister, the writer said that he had joined the Cabinet for the sole purpose of handling internal affairs. But, he said, that seemed impossible due to a variety of reasons and the inability of the Council of Ministers to work in unison in dealing with these matters. This, he added, has prompted Mr. Hindawi to resign and open the way for the desired change.

VIEW FROM ACADEMIA

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majloubi

What we do and what we say — two worlds we should set apart

AMONG SOME of the more disturbing phenomena in today's Arab society is the wide discrepancy between what many of its members think they are and do and what they really are and truly do. The phenomenon, which may not seem obvious except to either those who reflect more seriously than others on the current "state" of Arab society or to those who compare it with other societies, is both quite widespread and multi-faceted.

The other day I was talking to a group of university students about cheating during exams, a bad habit in which many of them (as well as many of our students at schools) would indulge quite freely if given the chance. I asked them what they thought of cheating and I emphasised that I wanted them to be quite honest about it. They all condemned it as unethical, immoral and even taboo, some quoting the Prophet Mohammad's famous saying: "He who cheats is not one of us." They said all forms of cheating were bad, the blatant as well as the more subtle and innocent. Asking a student about a small point during an exam, looking at his/her answer sheet, copying from it or from the textbook are, they stressed, all despicable. A person who cheats is subversive and is not to be trusted or entrusted with any important job. What they said was firm, final, heartening and impressive. They sounded absolutely serious and absolutely sincere; some were so eloquent, I was really touched. If I was talking to a group of saints.

I then asked them, if that was what they felt, why they practised cheating when and if given the opportunity. Because they do. In a group of 30 students, 20 would quite automatically engage in cheating the minute the instructor turned his/her back to them or becomes momentarily engaged in some activity. They would look at each other's answer sheets, whisper answers and copy from textbooks. They would do it comfortably, easily, naturally, without any feelings of regret or remorse, without hesitation and in cold blood.

When I asked them why they themselves did it, they at first looked startled. Obviously, they could not deny the charge. They knew I knew. So then they started, not to admit the error and the guilt (as one would expect) but to justify why they would do it, as if what they had just said had nothing to do with the matter. They said it was really

harmless, they did not intend to cheat, how could an innocent look really matter, and what was wrong with asking a fellow student about a small point? Had I not been familiar with this situation for a long time, I would have been shocked. But I am well-acquainted with it and have become used to it, even though it greatly irritates me, neither do I condone it, nor do I allow it to happen in my classes (if I can help it) and I cannot stand those who attempt it.

Cheating, of course, is not an isolated phenomenon, even though it has its own peculiar causes; rather, it is part and parcel of a larger social phenomenon, perhaps even a social malady. Does not the scenario I have described above remind us, for instance, of the head of the family in our part of the world who, whenever the opportunity arises, lectures enthusiastically, devotedly and piously about the significance of the educational role of the parent, at a time when he does not give his own kids half an hour of his time which he lavishes freely on his buddies and favourite activities? Does it not apply to the mother who allows her children to loaf in the streets and alleys of eastern Amman from dawn to dusk amidst sewer dirt, dust and equally unguided and misguided peers? Does it not apply to the teacher who keeps reminding us of a raise but who devotes the least effort and attention to his students? And the mechanic, the civil servant, the weatherman?

The point here is not carelessness, lukewarm attitudes indifference or irresponsibility. It is not even a matter of double standards or hypocrisy. No, it is much more. What amazes me, as I have said, is the discrepancy, the gap, even the abyss between what one says, means, believes, insists upon and defends fiercely on the one hand, and what one does and practices on the other.

What I am attempting to illustrate and highlight here is a form of schizophrenia — in the non-technical sense of the word, which Webster's describes as "the presence of mutually contradictory or antagonistic parts or qualities." It is as if people live in two worlds which are disconnected, dichotomised and unrelated. When they are in the one, it looks real and true; when they are in the other, it also looks real and true. The two realities co-exist and one steps into

and out of the one and the other as freely and conveniently as one takes off a jacket and puts on another.

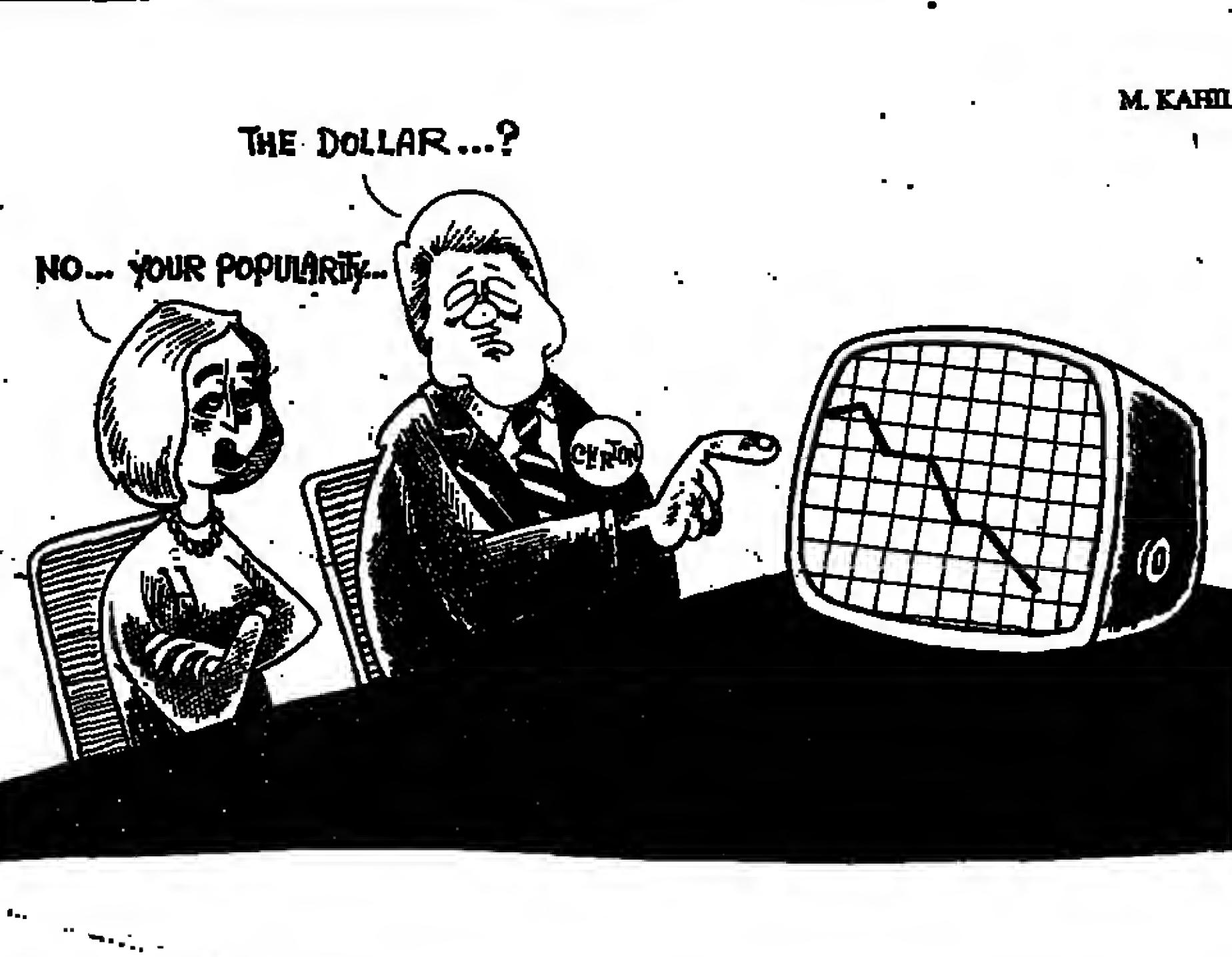
We inherit the problem from the culture at large. Here is how it happens, in my opinion. In our daily life, we are constantly told, preached, lectured at and exposed to the ideals which we all cherish: that the Arab family is supportive and harmonious, that the mother is the maker of men and destiny, that the father is the trustworthy guardian, that the teacher (as the famous line of poetry has it) is "almost a prophet," that the farmer is diligent and conscientious, that the public employee is the servant of the people, that we love duty, that we exercise our responsibilities admirably and ably, etc. The family tells us this, the neighbours tell us this, the teachers, the preachers, the TV, the radio, the poets, etc. tell us this. Such ideals, which are very appealing and noble, sink into our consciousness. They are drilled into us hourly and daily. They become part of us.

At the same time, the kids go out into the streets, we go out into the real world and the picture is different. The ideals are not there. People do what is convenient and easy for them. It is there, it is available, everybody does it. We cheat at school whenever we can, we do not have to sweat at our jobs (who cares after all?), we do not have to compete to be promoted, we do not have to perform well to be appreciated and valued. This is the way it is. Take it easy, "put your head among the heads of others," (the famous Arabic saying goes), forget it man, etc.

Daily and hourly, we experience these two realities separately and at times simultaneously. In either case, we have internalised both and accepted both.

This is a problem. The way out of it is, first, to become aware that there is a problem and to admit and confess it. Second, our society has to stress work, acts, deeds, performance, achievement, concrete results, tangible steps more than words, lectures and sermons. People have to be rewarded and valued for what they do, not what they say. Third, in bringing up children and educating students, we have to explain the difference, and make it sink in, between the ideals we wish to realise and the place where we stand.

Let's not confuse what we think we are with what we truly are, what we say with what we do.



Americans are setting their sights too high

By Anthony Lewis

BOSTON — "Why do we want to kill our presidents?" A doctor asked me that the other day, and left me wondering whether there is something about the American system, or the American psyche, that now makes the presidency a hopelessly vulnerable institution.

"With the exception of Reagan, who was sui generis," he said, "we have cut off every president for nearly 30 years: Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Bush. Now it looks as if the same will happen to Clinton. We don't just say they failed at this or that. We say they failed as human beings, and we seem to get satisfaction from that idea. There's almost a gleat about it: 'Boy, he really was terrible.'

With each of those presidents one can find at a fault that led to his undoing. Mr. Johnson dug the country into the disaster of Vietnam. Mr. Nixon was responsible for the lies and abuses of Watergate. And on and on.

Vietnam and Watergate, moreover, had lasting effects on the institution. Americans ceased to believe presidents, to assume their good faith. The press became hostile, and has remained so. It did not give Bill Clinton even a brief honeymoon.

President Clinton, too, has inflicted many wounds on himself. From Zoë Baird to Lani Guinier, from Bosnia to prayer in schools, he has repeatedly failed to stand on principle. But the doctor's point was that something larger is going on. Whatever the mistakes of this president or that, we Americans want to find

some fundamental, personal flaw in the man. Is that so? What is undoubtedly true is that Americans expect far too much of their federal government nowadays. In a vast country, they think Washington can and should prevent local street crime. They expect it to repair family life, and make sure that their incomes rise.

And the president is the great symbol of national government. Americans lay on him almost the personal burdens that King Henry V felt the night before the battle of Agincourt in Shakespeare's play: "Upon the King! Let us live, our souls, our debts, our careful wives, our children and our sins lay on the King!"

At least since the New Deal, we Americans have had this romantic notion of what presidents ought to do for each of us. Asking for the impossible, we are bound to be disappointed. As in a failed romance, we turn bitterly on the one who has failed us. So the theory might go.

Now we are evidently returning to the pre-New Deal political system, congressional government. However much resolve Mr. Clinton can summon up, the legislative agenda is likely to be set by the newly dominant Republicans in Congress. It is there in Newt Gingrich's "Contract With America," and no one should doubt the seriousness of his intention to carry it out.

Will the planned Republican measures fulfill expectations? Mr. Gingrich has taken some welcome procedural steps, such as shaking up the House seniority system. But what about the nation's substan-

tive problems? The rise in illegitimate births, especially among teenagers, is one such problem. Will a denial of welfare benefits to illegitimate children — the idea being discussed by Republicans — solve the problem? Will poor teenage girls change their sexual habits if the government takes their babies away and puts them in Gingrich orphanages?

Or crime. Longer sentences and more prisons have not affected the level of crime noticeably so far.

Will even more savage policies turn the growing population of young men without hope into good citizens?

The economy is the problem causing the most profound discontent. Real per capita income has been stagnant or declining for years. The rich have grown dramatically richer, while the middle class struggles to keep afloat.

Some of the Gingrich contract's economic ideas are appealing. The \$500 tax credit per child, for example. But the huge cost of the various proposed tax cuts would make the deficit balloon and require cuts in social security, Medicare and like entitlements on a similar scale. Will such a package ease frustrations?

The concern is not an idle or a partisan one. Frustrated expectations can exact a heavy cost in politics. They can turn people against the whole idea of representative government. Unless political leaders begin to talk honestly about the limits of what they can produce, the present cynicism and anger may become dangerous.

The New York Times

A friend to rely on

By Abba Eban

THERE IS good reason to believe that if a peace treaty is concluded between Israel and Syria, the United States will help provide an adequate monitoring system. To predict anything else is to believe that the new U.S. Congress leadership will be less supportive of Israel's security than its predecessors. There is no basis for this appraisal.

An attack of jitters whenever new leaders take responsibility in any sector of American power is a part of Israeli folklore. But there has been more continuity than vacillation in the conduct of American diplomacy. The decision of the Israeli electorate to give its government a mandate for innovation, compromise and peace has done more than anything else to consolidate the American-Israeli alliance.

Beyond the U.S.-Israeli relationship, the peace process has sent Israel's international prestige expanding right and left to include a widening sector of the Arab World. It will not be easy for Syria, Saudi Arabia and other Arab states to stay permanently outside the magnetic field.

The Israeli opponents of the peace process are virtually suggesting that we give up the hope without being able to avoid the grief.

In the final resort, the probability that Israel and Syria will ultimately reach an agreement is greater than the likelihood of a return to the previous savage hostility.

If Americans were apprehensive about such risks, the U.S. would be effectively renouncing any serious role in the world community.

The success of the multilateral force and observers in Sinai, with their delicate task of monitoring overflights, reminds us that there is no validity in the platitudes about "a mere piece of paper" as against "concrete territorial assets."

The peace treaty as pioneered by Begin and Sadat did not leave us with a

success.

The writer is a former foreign minister. This article is reprinted from the Jerusalem Post.

LETTERS

Memorable visit

To the Editor:

The royal visit of Her Majesty Queen Beatrix and His Royal Highness Prince Claus to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is a day to remember. It was such a unique opportunity and honour to meet Their Majesties from the Netherlands.

Queen Beatrix took the time to meet the Dutch community in Amman, even though it is a small community. We were all so pleased with the warm welcome of the Dutch royal family and proud that our queen has such a terrific relation with His Majesty King Hussein.

It is heartwarming that Jordan and the Netherlands will have even closer economical and social ties.

We, the Dutch community in Jordan, want to thank His Majesty King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Beatrix for this memorable event and wish them prosperity and health.

Mariette Al Hassan
on behalf of the Dutch
community in Amman.

dr. J. Al Hassan

Weekender

Dec. 8, 1994

Published Every Thursday

To normalise or not, that is the question

By Mohammad Mashaqqa

In the midst of a controversy within the Jordanian cultural society over the so-called cultural and artistic normalisation with Israel in the peace era, some Islamists, leftists and pan-Arabs have succeeded in formulating a clear programme of action to confront normalisation.

Their 46-point short and long term programme, which was revealed by the former Islamist member of Parliament, Dr. Mohammad Abu Faris, covers all aspects of cultural and artistic life. The leftists and the pan-Arabs have obviously supported the Islamists-engineered programme and have pledged to put it into force.

In contrast, independent cultural groups and those among them who support the establishment's views were satisfied to announce that the Arab and Islamic culture is so deep-rooted in history that it would by no means be affected by the "non-original" and fairly new Israeli culture.

This group says there is no need for concern as "no one has the right to force us to interact with the Israeli culture," unless and until Israel has given up its racist policies.

In the view of this group, the on-going struggle is one between the Arab Islamic culture and that of the Western culture and ideology of which Israel is an inseparable part.

However, in both groups one finds elements that have a common denominator: That they should not succumb totally to the wishes of the Islamic movement in dealing with the challenges ahead. These elements group Marxists and liberals who have not yet succeeded in formulating a specific programme of their own concerning economic and political issues.

Iyad Qattan, director of the Royal Cultural Centre

(RCC), describes "liberalism" as not being a mere abstract concept but rather an expression of concrete materialistic interests connected with capitalism. But he notes that the group falling under this category is weak and loosely linked largely due to its inclusion of a number of personalities representing the government bureaucracy who had exploited their own position in public administration, and also elements representing the nomadic tribes. All these have become capitalist-oriented elements who do not favour change or modernisation, says Qattan.

Hisham Ghassib, professor of physics at the Princess Sarvath Technical College, believes that the Marxists in Jordan face a dilemma, namely the retreat of communism. "Indeed, the Communists had confined their ideology to mere slogans which concealed terrible backwardness. For a new start communism requires an overhaul of their whole structure, to be based on scientific foundation free of the shackles of the past."

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

Ghassib warns the secular groups against becoming mere followers of the "Islamic movement" since "experience has proved that the Islamists are quite ready to reach a compromise with the government over Islamic issues affecting personal freedoms, or on national questions like the peace treaty with Israel."

Thus we can see that we are dealing with individual intellectuals representing a certain trend but they are not grouped in an organised political party. They agree on a rational as well as a scientific and democratic course of action but differ over the concepts of future relations with Israel.

In Ghassib's view, Israeli culture is influenced by a

superstitious mentality, a far cry from that of the United States. Also being a mini-imperialistic state, Israel groups a variety of ethnic origins which are obvious in its heterogeneous society.

Warning of evil coming from the relations with Israel, Ghassib cites the Jewish state's systematic destruction of the Palestinian social and economic structure over the past years.

He says that development requires huge funds and Jordan has no alternative in escaping from the looming Israeli economic and cultural threat except through turning towards its Arab nation to build up a national front.

He calls for the restructuring of Arab people's mentality "occidentally" rather than "Orientally" which means selective absorption of Western culture, science and means for real progress.

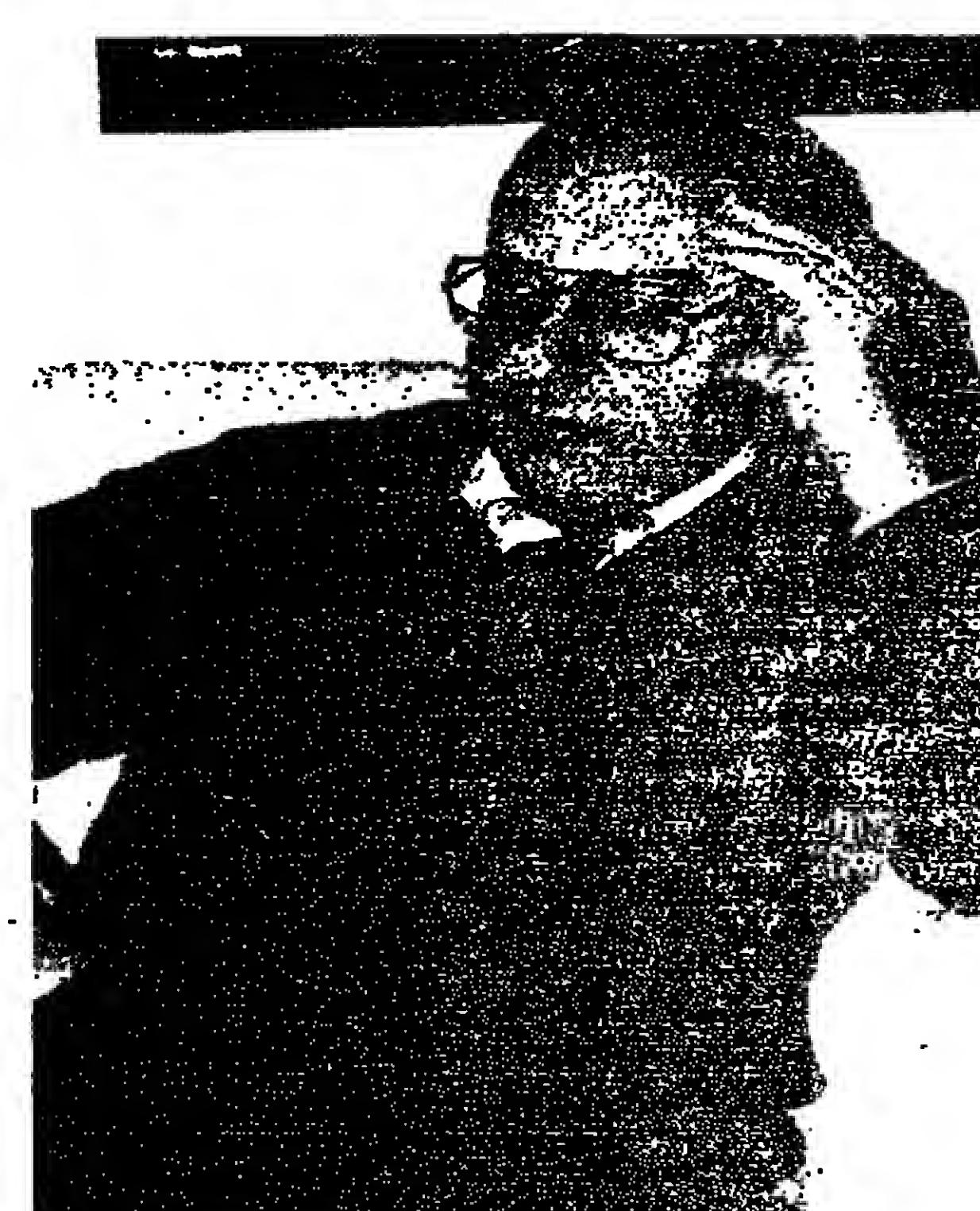
Iyad Qattan, for his part, believes that Israel does not pose a challenge for Arabs because he says "we are used to being backward, scientifically, technically and culturally".

In his view there is neither an Islamic or pan-Arab plan. "I am not in agreement with those who claim the existence of a conflict with Western culture and ideology, but I believe that differences do exist between progress and backwardness," he adds.

Qattan says he is not concerned over dealings with Israel whose technological progress could benefit the Arabs, but rather he is worried about the despotism of Arab dictatorships which cannot be trusted when it comes to the sustainability of any economic or political agreement with them.

Qattan adds: "As intellectuals, we ought to demand that regional blocs can only group democratic countries drawing on solid institutions."

Qattan is not afraid of the relations with Israel, expressing belief that Arabs would benefit in their

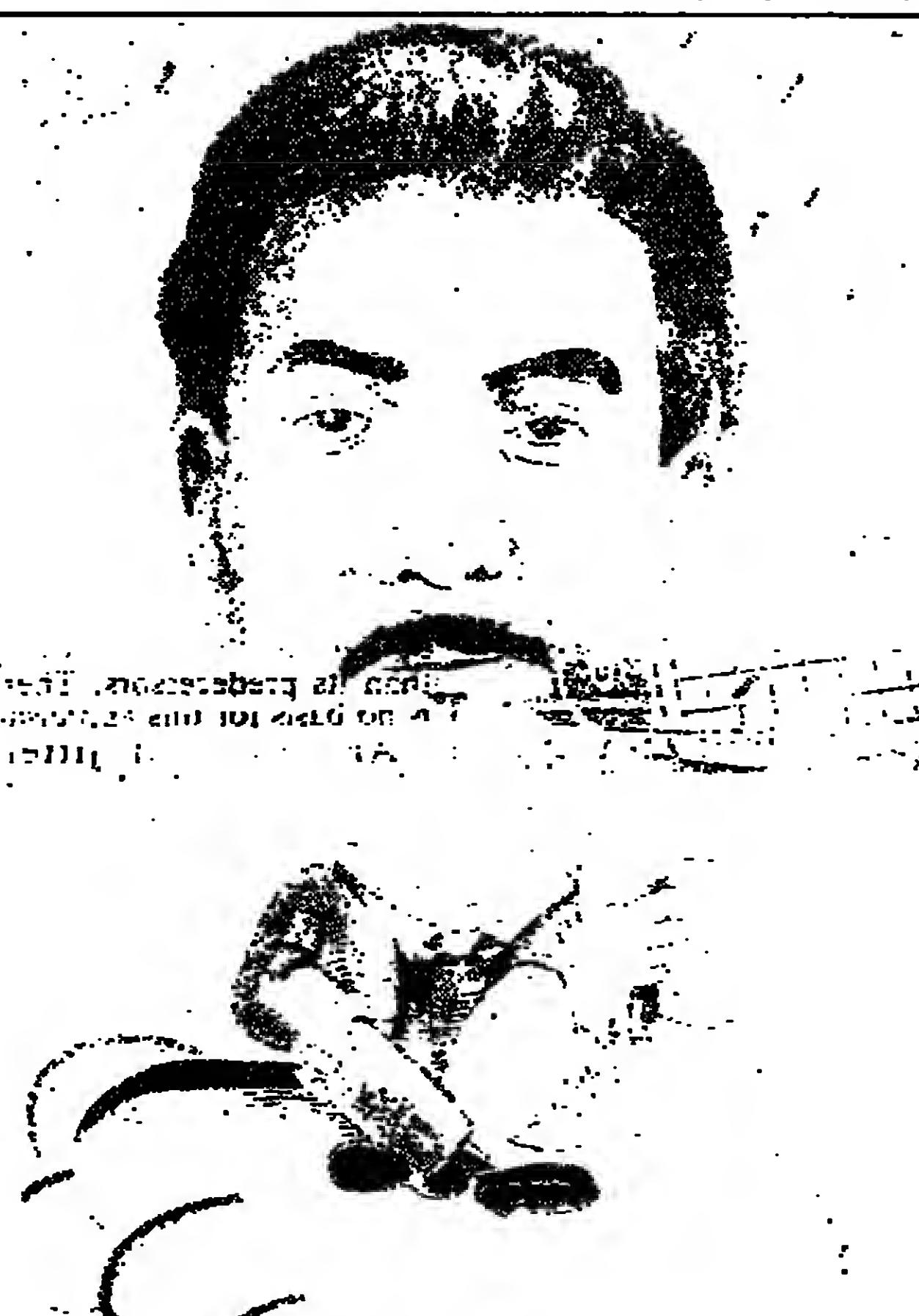


Hisham Ghassib

cultural and economic openness to and co-existence with others. Since the Israeli society is young and dynamic and rapidly developing as it adopts a variety of cultures, he adds, the Arabs stand to benefit from it in a general framework of democracy and pluralism.

SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

The weatherman did it



When the Arabic daily Al Dustour's "portrait" writer Ali Saadeh recently wrote a feature titled "The Republic of Dr. Abanda," who would have predicted that soon afterwards the country's chief "weatherman" would have been called on the floor by Jordan Television's Asaf Shobaki to defend a major forecast for last Saturday night of a heavy snowstorm that as it turned out hit areas in the north and south of the country but somehow missed Amman.

In the portrait, Saadeh wrote that Dr. Abanda is often the subject of "innocent" jokes and comments such as accusing Dr. Abanda of smuggling in low-pressure past the Customs Department and other concerned authorities.

As Dr. Abanda explained it, weather forecasts worldwide are 90 per cent accurate, and Jordan's meteorologists are almost at this level. He added that the policy of his department is to prepare the country for the worst case scenario because, as he put it, "if we do not issue a weather warning, the results could be catastrophic." Dr. Abanda, who according to Ali Saadeh, is all too often held personally accountable by the public for the actual weather and not just forecasts, said the public equates a snowstorm with a day off from work or school. "When a prediction such as that for Saturday evening does not materialise, people become angry and take their frustrations out on the weatherman," he said. Besides, as he says, Jordan is not only Amman. That is precisely what he was trying to make Shobaki, who himself is perceived by the public to be the country's snow newscaster, understand. Dr. Abanda's predictions of snowfall saw 1.5 metres in some southern areas, and 55 centimetres in Ajloun. The storm inexplicably was not as active over the capital, he said.

Meanwhile, Dr. Abanda said that Jordan Radio and Television Director General Ihsan Ramzi called him to apologise for the "clumsy approach and ignorance of meteorology" of the news programme's anchorman.

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NOTHING TO DO BUT EAT: On the commercial side though, supermarkets registered high sales.

At Safeway supermarket, whose telephone hold system lulls callers with the American frontier-day time Home On The Range, General Manager Azam Masri said there was a huge amount of customer traffic. "They (the customers) bought everything," he said, adding that the primary shopping was for groceries and secondary purchases were on all sorts of other items. "It seems people took advantage of the day-off on Saturday and did some extra shopping," said Masri. On the one hand Masri admitted that while "relying on the unreliable" weather forecast of the Meteorology Department Safeway's sale shot upwards this week, as a citizen he is critical of the department's "unstable" predictions. He said he suspects "people may have been sitting at home, and all they can do is eat," thus the "100 per cent increase in sales over the same three days of last December." "I count heavily on his (Dr. Abanda's) wrong forecasts, but as a regular citizen I expect my kids to go to school on time, and my wife has to suddenly come up with things to keep the children occupied if schools close." He hinted that she is not amused on such extraordinary days.

Abela General Manager Antoine Farghali said "the problem is that most people think that roads would be blocked, so they rush all at one time to stock up on food items." It happens every time, he said. At Abela, Farghali said, there was an unusually large number of customers, filling their shopping baskets with mostly foodstuffs. The store must have been well-stocked because Farghali said customers found what they needed, and there were no out of stock items.

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BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY: Over at Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA) Royal Jordanian Vice President in charge of passenger

services Samer Majali said that the primary reference for authorities at all three of the Kingdom's airports is indeed the Meteorology Department. As such, he said, the QAIA staff were prepared to implement their emergency plan in case the inclement weather predictions did prove correct. He said that on Saturday, all crew members operating evening flights were brought in earlier than usual and accommodated at the Alia Gateway Hotel nearby the airport so that the flight schedule that evening would not be disturbed. Majali, who is the eldest son of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, also said Royal Jordanian made arrangements to keep its evening shift of QAIA personnel on duty if they were unable to get home that night after their shifts. Although such precautions do result in additional costs, Majali said "we rather be safe than sorry." With no snow above or below Saturday night, there were only some minor delays, some unrelated to the weather, he said.

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PERKS AND MORE PERKS: If you were wondering how our elected members of Parliament fared Saturday evening, Amra Hotel Acting General Manager Rafiq Al Salah said that on the night of the expected snowstorm, not one deputy was registered at the hotel which now accommodates Lower House of Parliament deputies at a discounted rate up to three days per week at Parliament's expense. In fact, he added that even under normal conditions not many deputies seem to avail themselves of the new job benefit. Salah said that on average only two or three deputies per week spend nights at the hotel. Although Parliament scheduled no general sessions for Sunday, committee meetings were in fact on the calendar — they were cancelled, however, on Sunday itself, said a Parliament official.

While it appears most deputies are taking less advantage of some of their benefits, others are ever-watchful of perks allotted to public officials. One tabloid reported earlier this week that Lower House Member Bassam Emoush has asked the prime minister for a full accounting (names of recipients and amounts paid to each) of the per diems paid out by the treasury to members of Parliament and the government taking junkets abroad.

According to the weekly paper, Deputy Emoush and other colleagues supporting his interest in "curbing the misuse of public funds" would like to see an amendment to the 1995 budget items wherein each ministry's allocation to its officials for expenses incurred on official visits abroad are itemised separately. Such separated, categorised and full disclosure, said the paper, "will deprive the 'higher

bureaucracy' from benefiting from these per diems" by eliminating the possibility of their being transferred to other areas of the fiscal budget.

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A MYSTERY UNVEILED: While some deputies were busy doubting the issue of official per diems, others were more interested in the whereabouts of one popular parliamentarian, Ghor Deputy Jamil Hishoush. The mystery was supposedly cleared up by the Arabic weekly tabloid, Shilhan, which announced to the Hishoush fans that their favourite MP had recently wed again and was on his third honeymoon. Describing the deputy as "in honey up to his head," Shilhan wished the thrice-espoused deputy "the fourth," even though "three's a charm?"

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THE CHICKEN AND THE EGGS: If Shilhan can describe Deputy Hishoush in cuisine terminology, it should come as no surprise that, recently, outspoken Deputy Abdul Minem Abu Zant, found no better way to describe the government than as a "chicken." In a debate over the trade balance of the Ministry of Supply, Sheikh Abu Zant was quoted as saying "the government is like a chicken eating from our house and laying eggs at the neighbour's." The deputy was said to be questioning the government's application of what he termed a "weird" equation. Shihani said that Sheikh Abu Zant asked how, if subsidies for food supplies four years ago exceeded JD 70 million and after all the increases in income, population, and the budget, could the subsidies now be reduced to half that amount.

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'HAND' LANGUAGE IN THE CORRIDORS: Reporting still on the "sideshows" in the corridors of Parliament, Shilhan said that the dialogue between Circassian Deputy Toujan Faisal and Aqaba Deputy Abdul Karim Kabariti attracted attention because of the "hand" language both deputies were said to display. According to Shilhan, one observer resolved the "mystery" of the deputies animated discussion, saying that Deputy Kabariti's uncles were Circassian, meaning that blood relatives should be the last to fight among themselves.

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CIGARS, CASTRO AND COURTESY: Yet another tabloid questioned Minister of Youth Fawaz Abul Ghanam on why, when he was escorting the Qatari youth association delegation into the Parliament last week, he presented a Jordanian journalist standing nearby with "two Havana rockets (cigars) which, according to the paper, are smoked by Cuban President Fidel Castro. "Do you want them (the Qatari visitors) to say that journalists can be bribed with cigarettes and cause us a scandal?" the paper asked. Cigar aficionados here, see it differently. For them, offering a cigar to a cigar comrade is just simply being generous. And by the way, Castro smokes Cohibas.

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WERE THE PRESS CARDS FELL: In an update on the status of ownership of Al Aswaq, Chairman of the Board Sufian Sartawi confirmed that a major portion of the limited shareholding company's stock is being purchased by a group of investors led by Zuhair Awatani, chairman of the board of Jordan Gulf Bank. Al Aswaq Editor-in-Chief Mustafa Abu Libdeh said that Awatani's venture into the company came with his belief that there is a good possibility to restructure the organisation and to invest in other media-related activities under the business daily's company name, Media Investment Company. According to Abu Libdeh, the intention of the shareholders was to make the newspaper the backbone of the company. Proposals for the future, he said, include establishing a permanent headquarters for the newspaper and the purchasing of a printing press. Abu Libdeh said the paper's priority now is to prove itself as the leading Arabic business daily in the area. With that goal as the main target, Abu Libdeh said enlargement of its

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technical, editorial and financial divisions will be necessary to offer a wider service. He said that in the meantime, in order to shorten the lapse to the paper's break even point, subsidiary media related activities are planned. Included among them, said the chief editor, was the formation of a public policy forum to encourage dialogue, and starting a market polling business either as an in-house venture or in cooperation with international polling firms. He added that the company was also speaking with Jordan Television about preparing economic business programmes, similar to those that the Financial Times of London prepares, in addition to its own broadcasts, for major international television news organisations such as Cable News Network (CNN) and the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), to be broadcast in the region.

Abu Libdeh proudly says that he believes that Al Aswaq is the last newspaper to be produced as cheaply as it is, with only JD 300,000 of its JD 900,000 capital actually paid up. "But we can survive," says Abu Libdeh.

At Sawt Al Shaab, it was reported that shareholders there met last week and decided not to liquidate the primarily government-owned company. But Chairman Abdul Hay Majali was way out of town to comment on what that outcome actually means — whether the paper would still be seeking government support to keep it and its affiliated activities afloat, or whether private concerns and individuals were still seeking to buy the company out. Meanwhile the taxpayer continues to bail out Al Shaab with generous amounts of cash on daily basis.

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THE POWER OF 6 FIGURES: Capital funds would appear to be a minor problem for the new London-based Arabic newspaper Al Salam (peace). According to Akbar Al Usbou', Board Chairman Wafai Al Bishawi, the paper is offering whoever they select as the new paper's chief editor an annual salary of £200,000. While that figure is at least 20 times the annual take-home pay of most chief editors here, it is worthwhile to note that Jithad Khazeen, chief editor of the well-established and well-funded Al Hayat Arabic daily (also London-based) is said to earn £22,000 per month. Bishawi was quoted as saying that the board is reviewing the qualifications of two candidates for the post: One an Egyptian national, the other a Jordanian. Al Salam is set to start printing in February and will be distributed in 40 countries, Akbar Al Usbou' reported. Meanwhile, Bishawi had his eye on a seat in the Amman Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, according to Shilhan. But win or lose, Bishawi, an independent candidate for the chamber elections scheduled at the time of this printing, has invited all merchants who supported him, as well as those who did not, to a lunch at the Sahara Family Restaurant at the Jaber Centre in Amman from Dec. 6-11, according to ads he himself ran in some local newspapers.

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COMING HOME: On a strictly mundane front, U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Wesley W. Egan and Minister of Higher Education Secretary General Ahmad Husban today (Thursday) inaugurated the office of the Jordanian-American Commission for Educational Exchange (JACEE), also known as the Binational Fulbright Commission, in Shmeisani. Appointed last March as the commission's executive director, Alain McNamara, who had spent a total of 18 years working in Egypt, the U.S. and Jordan with AMIDEAST, said he "looks forward to working with this new binational commission and expanding the scope and impact of programmes that will benefit both Jordan and the U.S. by finding new sources of support and new programme opportunities." McNamara and his wife, Katherine (Kathy) Sullivan, who years ago edited Abdul Hameed Shoman's autobiography, said they are delighted to be back in Jordan where they have maintained strong ties with friends made in the early 80s. "It's like coming home," said McNamara.

Jennifer Hamarneh

TERS
able visit

Marlette Al Hassan
on behalf of the Dutch
community in Amman

Fragile — move with care

By Jean-Claude Elias

The beauty of working with a computer is knowing the information that is entered and then saved on the hard disk is there for good. It is nice feeling that the system, usually, "plays for keeps."

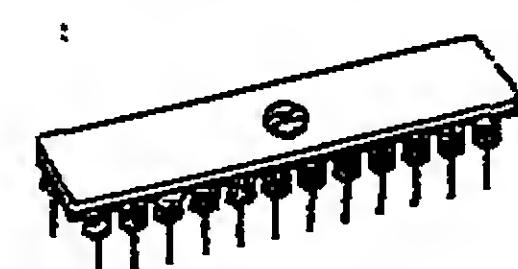
Being able to manipulate the same data over and over again, restructuring it, modifying it, adding to it, deleting from it or printing it out at any time, is an invaluable advantage. PC (personal computer) users however discover with time, that the data they entered via a given programme often needs to be used in other software or on other equipment. We can distinguish between three different cases.

In the first, and simplest one, users have to move, for the same programme, from an existing version, up to a new one. For instance, Microsoft best-selling Excel spreadsheet programme has shifted up from version 3.0 to 4.0 and then 5.0 in less than five years. Such a migration does not usually present any difficulty. A file prepared under Excel 4.0 will be read and processed by version 5.0 without any problem.

In the second case, the user needs to process a file created under a given programme in another one. The first could be WordPerfect and the second MS-Word (or vice-versa). Although developers include what they call "automatic conversion filters" in their software, intended to instantaneously translate data from one programme to another, the operation is not always simple nor fully successful. Sometimes characters' attributes (bold, underline, style, size) are lost, page formatting (margins, paragraphs) are changed and some additional work is required in order to put data back in its original shape. Most people however agree that this is still much more convenient than re-doing the work from scratch.

Always in the second case, and more particularly in the bilingual environment, Arabic information processed with Nafitha, an Arabisation system that works under MS-DOS, is to be exported to Windows, that uses a completely different Arabic coding

chip talk



system than Nafitha. Although Windows has built-in utilities for this purpose, I know for having used them, they only work with 90 to 95 per cent accuracy, in addition to being reserved for advanced users or professionals.

In the third case, data must be moved from one system to another, typically from a Macintosh to an IBM-compatible. Here again, designers have taken the users' needs into consideration and provide conversion tools. Some are automatic, transparent, allowing one operator to take a diskette processed on an IBM system and simply read it on the Mac. In other cases they require additional, manual operating. Here again, the accuracy is not always 100 per cent.

Whatever the case, it is strongly recommended, before undertaking any data conversion operation, whether simple or complex, to make a back up copy of the original files to convert, and use only the copy for the attempted conversion. If anything goes wrong — remember Murphy's Law — one can always go back to the original.

There is a growing need for data migration and conversion between users, machines, and different programmes versions. Software designers should take special care of this aspect in personal computing, and make it quick, easy and reliable. Only then should they be allowed to use the term "user-friendly."

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

CURIOS SUPERSTITIONS

WHITE: White is the colour of coffins, vermins (which leave the tombs at night to suck the sleepers' blood and colour them red), jinns and moon. The colour does not herald any good.

TWO: Had two calamities once occurred, a third would have accordingly been expected. As for happy occasions, the occurrence of two will not make it necessary for the third to take place.

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LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

FAMILIAR EXPRESSIONS

- He committed an ugly crime. *Irtakaba jarreematan shanee'a.*
- God bless you. *Baaarakat-lahu feek.*
- Our house is situated in a blind alley. *Manziluna fee ziqaq masdood.*
- His sight made my blood creep. *Manzaraho az'ajani.*
- He bit his fingers with regret. *Ad'da asaabe'ahoo nadaman.*
- I can't bear that. *La astati' ann atahammal zalek.*
- Things are bad with him. *Howa fee osr.*
- Away, you swindler! *Oktroj min hona ayyohal-moh'tal.*
- Avoid doing evil. *Tajannab ash'shar.*
- What can I do? *Maza astati' an af'al?*
- Don't interrupt me, please. *La toqaate'ony min fadlek.*

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INVITATION TO LAUGHTER

* AFTER his father's death, a Vietnamese put up an unpretentious tombstone on his grave with the inscription: 'Here lies Ho Chi Tonko'.

It so happened that the son had a stroke at the side of the grave. Sensing his approaching end, he dragged himself on to the tombstone, and added under his father's name: "...and his son, Vassilo."

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* A MAN was invited somewhere. When he sat down the other guests, he pulled out a packet of cigarettes and offered one to his neighbour on the right.

- "Thank you, I don't smoke."
- He then turned to his neighbour on the left.
- "Thank you, I don't smoke either."
- His wife then whispered to him:
- "Why don't you offer one to the host?"
- "He does smoke," the man whispered in an even lower voice.

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* A PLANE passed over one of the African forests. "What's that animal?" said a cannibal child to his father.

- "It's a plane."
- "Could it be eaten?"
- "Yes, but like a coconut, it is the thing inside that could only be eaten."

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BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. What are agoraphobia, amnesia, aphasia and paranoia?
2. What is the difference between a herring, a bloater and a kipper?
3. In what countries do the following peoples dwell? — Ainu, Dykas, Tamils, Bantu, Aïridis, Masai, Maoris, Berbers, Bhils, Swahilis.
4. What is the equivalent for the English "MR", in France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Holland?

TODAY'S DISH

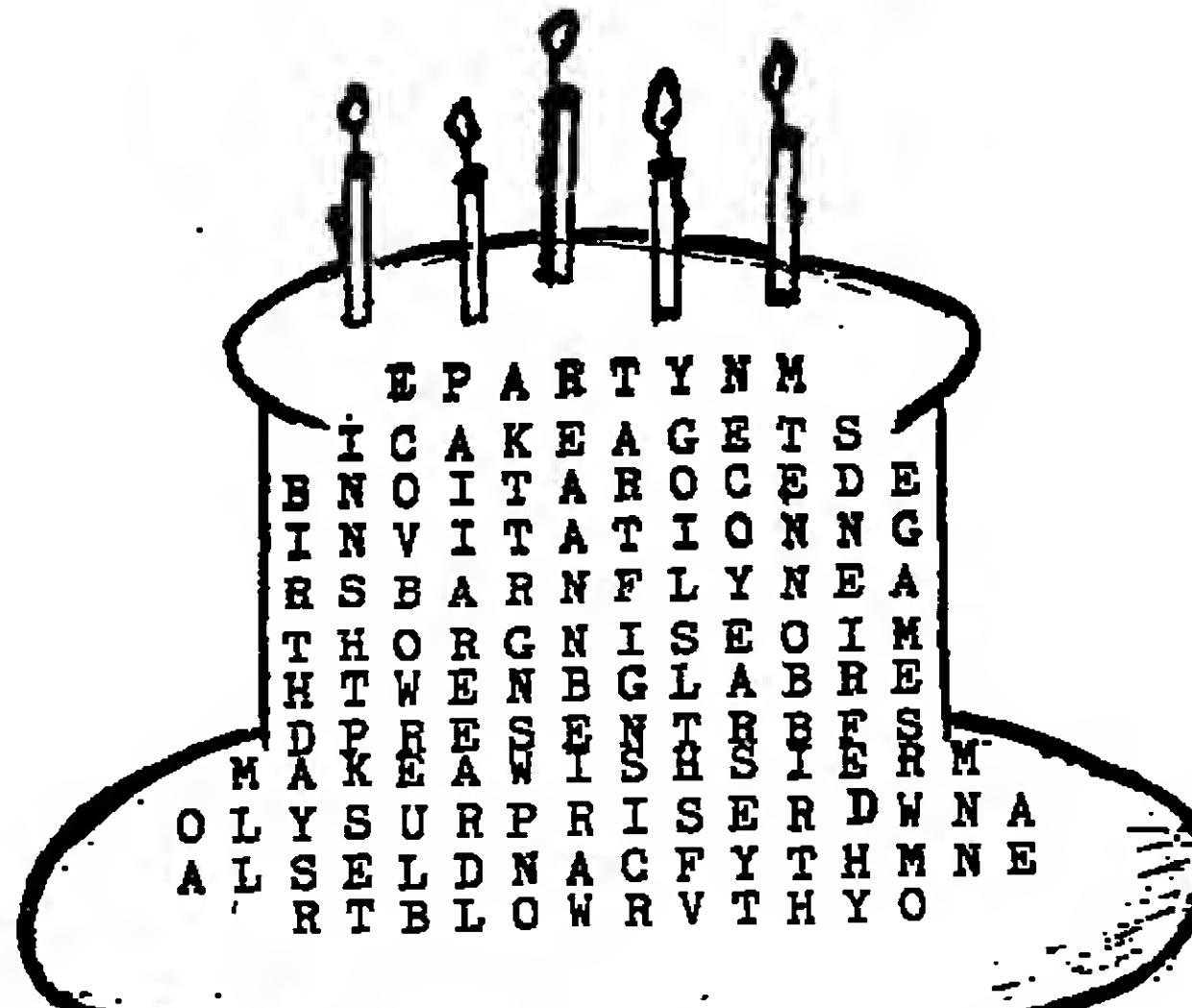
HANIM SALATA (MY LADY'S SALAD)
INGREDIENTS:
1 lb. cooked chicken. 12 black olives, heart
3 hard-boiled eggs, quartered. white cabbage, salt
1 tablespoon wine vinegar and pepper.
3 spring onions, ½ pint wine dressing
3 stalks white celery

METHOD: Shred cabbage and celery very finely, mix with the onions and seasoning. Stir in the vinegar and arrange at the bottom of a salad bowl. Cover with the shredded chicken and the hard-boiled eggs. Pour the wine dressing over the whole and decorate with olives. Serve well chilled.

PERPLEXITIES

ALL THE WORDS below will be found in the illustration. Some read up, down, sideways, and even backwards. How many can you find?

AGE	INVITATION
BIRTHDAY	MAKE A WISH
BLOW	PARTY
BOW	PRESENT
CAKE	RIBBON
CANDLES	SING
DECORATION	SURPRISE
FRIENDS	YEARS
GAMES
GIFT



Thoughts for this week

I have three phobias which, could I mute them, would make my life as slick as a sonnet, as dull as ditch water. I hate to go to bed, I hate to get up, and I hate to be alone — Tallulah Bankhead, American actress (1903-1968).

History must always be taken with a grain of salt. It is, after all, not a science but an art — Phyllis McGinley, American poet and author (1905-1978).

The man who does not learn is dark, like one walking in the night — Chinese proverb.

Don't forget to love yourself — Soren Kierkegaard, Danish philosopher (1813-1855).

Cuando amor no es locura, no es amor (When love is not madness, it is not love) — Pedro Calderon de la Barca, Spanish dramatist (1600-1681).

To be nobody-but-myself — in a world which is doing its best, night and day, to make you everybody else — means to fight the hardest battle which any human being can fight, and never stop fighting — E.E. Cummings (1894-1962).

A compelling social performance that is unique

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

(1) All that is needed to become a writer

The question that writers are most frequently asked is, "Do you think everyone has a book in them?" Anyone who has ever been praised for their skill as a letter or even a postcard writer thinks writing is easy. People do not, presumably, forever inquire of engineers, "Do you think everyone has a bridge in them?" Most of us know perfectly well that it takes more than the knack of boiling an egg to be a great chef. Yet nearly everyone seems to think that — given a bit of peace and quiet — they could write a novel.

The assumptions behind this are not flattering to novelists. First the question implies that anyone who can tell a good anecdote or bedtime story could also write: as though a novel were an artless collection of words directed at an indulgent audience. In fact, a good novel is as elaborately constructed as a bridge. It needs a driving plot, a believable cast of characters, a convincing setting, a flow of theme and purpose, woven together in clear, original prose. This should be set in a structure as symmetrical and beautiful as a bridge, reflecting life just as the bridge is reflected in the water, creating a double curve of art and reality.

Second, the questioner assumes that novels are little more than thinly disguised autobiography, so all that is needed to become a writer is the willingness to spill your guts, or life story.

Yet the longing for writing remains. It is not just

for the money... more probably for the joy of holding one's own words between hard covers and hoping that one has, in a small way, cheated oblivion.

(2) Representations of the intellectual

As of last week, Radio Jordan has decided to give us a second run of a series of lectures given by Professor Edward Said. These lectures, better known as The Reith Lectures 1993, were broadcast in the summer of 1993 on BBC Radio.

In these lectures, Said pondered over the condition of the intellectual in order to define and justify what he has done, what he has been and what he is in the world. Maybe they were never meant to provide a homeland, but in truth, a home of sorts is exactly what he sought in these lectures, which should, most accurately have been entitled The Representation Of Edward Said.

In the first of these lectures Said wrote that there is no such thing as a private intellectual since the moment one sets down words and then publishes them, one has entered the public world. Nor is there, he argued, only a public intellectual, someone who exists just as a figurehead or spokesperson or symbol of a cause, movement, or position. Said wrote that, of those things that give meaning to what is being said or written, there always will be the personal inflection and the private sensibility: the whole point of being an intellectual was not to make his or her audience feel good, but to be embarrassing, contrary even unpleasant.

In the second lecture Said considered the influence of community, history and nationality on the individual's thinking.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Dec. 8

7:30 N.B.A.

8:30 Road To Avonlea

Malcolm And The Baby

Sara and Felicity steal a baby for Aunt Abigail and Uncle Malcolm.

9:10 Tequila And Bonetti

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Losing Track

The film tells the story of a father and his 12-year-old son who try to resolve their emotional conflict after being apart for so many years.

12:00 The Investigator

Theos Last Chance

A man is pursued by the police after being charged with armed robbery and murder.

Friday, Dec. 9

7:30 Hollywood Stuntmakers

8:30 African Skies

The Gift

In his attempt to earn enough money to buy a gift, Rory accepts money from a stranger to deliver some mysterious packages to a nearby airstrip.

8:30 You Bet Your Life

9:00 P.M. Magazine

9:30 Heart Of Courage

Two people are rescued after being struck by lightning.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Blanche

Working tirelessly in a run-down clinic, Blanche experiences a unique sense of fulfillment as she cares for the sick and needy.

12:00 Never The Twain

A Night To Remember

While trying to help a neighbour, a man and his housemaid are held hostage by armed burglars.

Saturday, Dec. 10

7:30 Harry And The Hendersons

After she discovers that her duet partner is blind, Sara refuses to take part in the school singing contest.

8:00 Innovation

8:30 Quantum Leap

Sam goes back in time to assume a character which is thought to be a blood sucker.

9:10 Murder She Wrote

After receiving an anonymous letter while investigating the murder of a story-writer, Jessica's life is threatened by a gunshot.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — GodFather

When, after ruling for two generations, the Mafia's New York head dies, his son takes over reluctantly but later knows how to kill.

Monday, Dec. 12

7:30 Black Beauty

8:00 Boogies Diner

The manager assigns a new girl at his store despite all the obstacles he faces.

8:30 Quantum Leap

9:10 Shades Of L.A.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Grushko

A journalist, who is a hard supporter of justice and freedom, is found dead. Colonel Grushko, an obstinate opponent of street violence and mob action, gets to work immediately.

Tuesday, Dec. 13

7:30 F.B.I.: The Untold Stories

8:00 World Echo

8:30 Quantum Leap

9:10 Cracking The Code

10:00 News In English

10:20 First Circle

Chaos takes place within the Russian government after uncovering a conspiracy with the U.S embassy during Stalin's rule back in 1940.

11:10 Fly By Night

The life of the enigmatic French co-pilot, Jean, is a stake after being threatened by armed men in their attempt to take hold of his father's estates.

Wednesday, Dec. 14

7:30 Coach

An indispensable reference on Palestinian ordeals in Lebanon

Too Many Enemies: The Palestinian Experience in Lebanon

By RoseMary Sayegh

Dr. Sayegh's book has been very well received by the public. It has also proven to be an indispensable source for an in-depth view of the Palestinian ordeal in Lebanon.

Since 1948, the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon have been subjected to all sorts of misfortunes and oppression. In describing the scope of their plight, Dr. Sayegh traces the early beginnings of the Palestinian presence in Lebanon. Between 700,000 to one million Palestinian refugees were expelled from their homeland and fled to neighbouring Arab countries. Of these, some 110,000 refugees chose to settle in Lebanon. The sudden arrival of such large numbers at the time (about 10 per cent of the total population of Lebanon) added to the heavy burden of a country poor in natural resources and with an exhausted economy.

This relatively huge influx of refugees was at first met with indifference and later acquiescence. The small size of the Lebanese army and its aloofness from the refugees partly shaped this Lebanese reaction and eventually, gave rise to the anti-Palestinian militias which would later play a major role in the hostilities with the Palestinians. The upper and middle class Palestinian refugees were easily accepted into the Lebanese society. They settled in cities and were able to secure employment with relative ease. Christian refugees were easily granted Lebanese nationality and were permitted to engage in professions like medicine, law and engineering. Most of the refugees, however, were of rural origins, and they were the ones to suffer the greatest material hardships, economic exploitation and loss of civic and national rights.

The majority of the less fortunate refugees settled in seventeen camps that were managed by UNRWA. For almost a decade since their settlement in Lebanon, the Palestinian refugees were subjected to various forms of repression and intimidation by both the police and the Deuxieme Bureau. The Arab lebanese vis-a-vis Israel during the 1948 war produced series of coups, violent upheavals and assassinations of prominent political leaders. The rise of Arab nationalism in the early fifties had a dual effect on the Palestinian refugees. In order to ride the tide of scorching national feelings, the regime of Fuad Shehab was forced to placate the Sunnis, who formed Egyptian President Gamal Abdul Nasser's power base in Lebanon, and to impose even harsher measures of oppression on the camps in order to intimidate Palestinian youths from joining nascent Palestinian resistance groups which were in the process of formation.

The major turning points for the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and elsewhere, came after the humiliating Arab defeat of June 1967. The emergence of the Palestinian Resistance Movement (PRM)

has had profound effects on Lebanon. The relatively large size of the Palestinian community in Lebanon, coupled with the deepening socio-economic crisis, caused a rupture in the delicate equilibrium that had kept Lebanon relatively calm since the civil war of 1958. From then onwards, the Palestinians found themselves involved in the complex maze of Lebanese politics. Predominantly Sunni Muslims, well armed and trained, the Palestinians became a force to be reckoned with.

At the beginning, the ascending power of the Palestinians was welcomed by the deprived, exploited and impoverished Lebanese including, but not restricted to, the Shiites. The growing military imbalance between the PRM and its Lebanese allies was soon to create resentment and later hatred, especially among ordinary citizens who were not in the rank and file of progressive and leftist parties. The Palestinians were blamed for the increasing loss in human lives and material destruction which Israeli retaliatory actions caused. Some Lebanese even labelled the Palestinians as a colonising power.

The hostility of the Maronite right and parts of the Lebanese government was understandable and expected. What caused a constant worry for the PRM was the growing alienation — later hostility — of the Shiites of South Lebanon who were becoming increasingly anti-Palestinian.

Israel was monitoring events in Lebanon with increasing concern. The PRM entrenchment in and

Although the PRM was forced to evacuate West Beirut as a result of an American sponsored agreement, other calculations on which Israel had based its invasion began to backfire. The Sabra, Shatila massacres tarnished Israel's image and caused widespread international attention. The collapse of the official Israel-Lebanon 17 May (1983) accords finally undermined Israel's hopes for a separate peace treaty with Lebanon. The Syrian come-back to West Beirut did not last long, and the Lebanese opposition gained momentum due to the heroic resistance it put up against Israel. Mounting casualties demoralised the Israeli army and vitiated its image of invincibility, and Israel began to consider a phased withdrawal from the quagmire it found itself in.

In the post-invasion period, Amin Gemayel's regime relied heavily on American support and the Maronite-dominated army. Efforts towards national reconciliation were avoided. The repressive nature of his regime soon loudly manifested itself. The Lebanese army entered West Beirut and began to behave like an occupying army, confiscating arms, setting up check-points and conducting house to house searches. The army and Maronite excesses, Israel's atrocities and the deepening economic crisis were factors that caused widespread discontent in West Beirut. The Lebanese army was once again dissolved as soldiers of different sects deserted it en masse and various militias took control of West Beirut. The Syrians began to gradually regain control of West Beirut and even sent regular army units into the city, sponsored by the Arab League.

The PRM began to re-arm and the tempo of smuggling weapons into Lebanon increased considerably. Some of the Fateh (Arafatists) fighters who were previously evacuated from the camps, had returned. Intra-Palestinian feuds and constant militia clashes further alienated the Lebanese people. Arafat's relations with the Syrians grew more and more tense and Syrian harassment of Arafatists intensified. The strained Palestinian (mainly Fateh) relations with the Syrians need special emphasis and should be analysed in a more detailed fashion due to their damaging impact. In retrospect, the beginnings of the already tense relations can be traced to the beginning of the direct military Syrian intervention in the Lebanese Civil War. For reasons of its own, Syria decided to cast its lot in the raging civil war to deprive the Lebanese Left and the PRM of an impending military victory over the Maronites and their allies. Such victory, the Syrians calculated, would disrupt the delicate internal balance of power among Lebanese factions and would invite direct foreign military intervention. The Syrian-Palestinian relations raged from direct and bloody confrontation, as during the battles of Sidon and Tripoli, to indirect internal interference in the affairs of the PRM. Syria could be blamed for more than one schism that plagued the main Palestinian resistance movement, Fateh. In the south, however, Palestinian-Shiite relations were rapidly deteriorating. Israel's retaliatory strikes against Shiite villages — which were intentionally out of proportion to PRM attacks —

greatly helped exacerbate an already tense situation. A list of accusations against the Palestinians included, but were not restricted to, "ugly acts of theft, rape, crimes, extortion and oppression". Such were the relations between the Shiite and the Palestinians on the eve of Amal's attack on the camps. Trained and armed by Syria, and encouraged by the rising anti-Palestinian sentiments, the Amal-Palestinian war of attrition broke out on May 19, 1985 and lasted well over two years. The war took the form of successive sieges against Shatila: the siege of Ramandan May 19-June 22; the one month siege of May 29-June 27, 1986; the Five Month siege Nov. 25, 1986-April 6, 1987. The common ordeal of the Palestinians forced them to put aside their differences and, within days, a joint military leadership was formed. The war dragged on intermittently for roughly two years. It is hard to estimate the scope of destruction, the extent of the impact of the "War of the Camps" on the Palestinian community had more serious implications. The inter-related economic and social relations between Palestinians and Shiites, built up and strengthened since 1948, were disrupted beyond repair. Palestinians did not take political advantage of their military victory in the "War of the Camps". Syrian arrests of Fateh loyalists (Arafatists) escalated. This was a manifestation of the decade long feud between Syria and the PLO. Bloody battles such as the one that raged in Sidon in 1976 together with arrests and hostile rhetoric were among the various aspects that this crippling animosity took. Only members of pro-Syrian organisations were allowed free entry into, and exit from the camps. As the Syrian siege dragged on, intra-Palestinian tension mounted. The intra-Fateh battle every one feared finally broke out at the end of April 1988, and continued throughout May and June. Ironically, the camp that Amal had tried so hard to occupy but failed, finally fell into friendly anti-Arafat hands. Fateh loyalists were evacuated to Sidon. Shatila became nothing more than a mass of rubble, with not one building standing. Thus, another bloody chapter of the history of the Palestinians in their diaspora was closed. What additional ordeals still await the Palestinians, no one precisely knows.

Dr. Sayegh's book offers a detailed account of the Palestinian ordeals in Lebanon. The publication of this documentary book in this form and content is an effort that Dr. Sayegh should be thanked for. It will no doubt be an indispensable reference for all scholars who need to take a detailed look at these tumultuous years. Despite this, in my opinion, there was a failure to mention some major massacres such as Tel Al Zaatar, while the Sabra, Shatila massacre itself was not extensively covered. The Syrian role in Lebanon, its aims, goals, and tools were not analysed in depth. The strained Palestinian (Fateh)-Syrian relations, mutual fears, mistrust and apprehensions were not tackled in a manner commensurate with their vital important and damaging effects to both.

Dr. Asad Abdul Rahman

Celluloid wars split Chinese film industry

By Giles Hewitt
Agence France Presse

BEIJING — China's

attempts to restructure its

sis-ruined film industry

floundering amid bit-

official infighting and

escalating dispute over

its film imports.

The main protagonists

state distribution comp-

— say they are

struggling to preserve the

future of the domestic film

sector, but the real battle

over the remnants of jealously-guarded dis-

tribution monopolies

brought up by the reform

programme.

China's film industry,

aged by poor quality

productions, has been in

the fall since 1979, with

box office takings plun-

ging from 29.3 billion yuan

(\$4 billion) to 9.5 billion

in last year.

Once the bastion of the

industry has been unable to compete with alternatives like television, video and karaoke which have flourished with China's opening to the outside world.

The latest threat has

come from abroad, with the

Ministry of Film, Radio and Television's deci-

sion to import 10 top-

grossing overseas movies a

year, mainly from the United States.

The move was greeted with outrage in some circles, which accused the authorities of selling out the domestic film industry to foreign producers.

"We are not against these films, but we feel the timing is wrong," said Bai Andan, president of the Beijing Film Distribution Co. (BFDC).

"Previously, foreign imports have been limited to cut-price, third-rate movies which have nevertheless enjoyed significant market share, and many fear that overseas blockbusters could shut out local productions completely."

Of the 187 films mar-

ked here last year, Mr. Bai

pointed out that foreign imports numbered 44 and accounted for 31 per cent of distribution income.

"We feel that is already enough, without the added pressure of major foreign films," Mr. Bai said.

The Chinese film in-

dustry is undergoing ma-

jor reform and restruc-

turing, so we should give

local film studios time to

adapt and become more

competitive before going

ahead with such high-

quality imports," Mr. Bai said.

Quality is the crucial

issue.

Previously, foreign im-

ports have been limited to

cut-price, third-rate

movies which have never-

theless enjoyed signifi-

cant market share, and

many fear that overseas

blockbusters could shut

out local productions com-

pletely.

Whoever allows U.S.

films to occupy the ground

belonging to Chinese films

is feeding foreign film

moguls with Chinese

money," Wang wrote.

Labeling those responsi-

bility "new compradors"

— a reference to the much

villified Chinese who

acted as business go-

between for foreign firms

in the late 19th century.

The BFDC's main antago-

nist is the China Film

Distribution Co. (CFDC),

which has been charged

with handling the distribu-

tion of the imports.

"It is ridiculous to call

us 'new compradors'."

said a senior CFDC execu-

tive, Geng Xilin.

"These films have a

A far more aggressive stance was taken by the BFDC's vice director, Wang Zhu, who wrote a stinging letter to the ministry in April.

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films to occupy the ground

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Labeling those responsi-

bility "new compradors"

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in the late 19th century.

According to Mr. Bai,

the CFDC's enthusiasm

for the imports is based

on the fact that its annual

revenue has gone from a

high of 100 million yuan in

the early 1980s to a loss of

80 million yuan last year.

"The CFDC is basically

only concerned with its

own interests. If they

don't import these films,

they don't make money."

Mr. Bai said.

The row came to a head

with the arrival in Novem-

ber of the first U.S. im-

port, *The Fugitive*. The

BFDC refused to handle

the film, prompting the

Majali: Jordan sought greater regional role

(Continued from page 1)

ance of various organisations except with the Parliament's cooperation.

Peace is not a mere treaty with Israel, it is rather a full transformation of our new regional and international role.

We are faced with two options: To leave to others the task of planning for us, and in that case we will find ourselves in a position in which we are forced to live with those plans against our will, or to take part in formulating the future for ourselves and have our own influence on the course of events and in that case we would remain in a stronger negotiating position and better able to protect our rights and interests.

We also realise that our role would be even stronger if we reach a formula for coordination and cooperation with the Arab states since we seek to make use of Jordan's central geographical location and its policies and the strength of its people's potential to achieve the best we can for the Kingdom and the Arab Nation at large.

We are in need of financial support, but can we tell the world that we entered peace and now we want to cash in on that?

The answer is that the time for such barters has gone for ever. Gone is the time when Arabs, with their oil boom and wealth, extended financial aid to us and we must realise that the Arabs will no longer assist us financially even if Jordanian relations with the Arab states return to their former status.

We must realise that our Arab brothers now have a different view and different way to deal with us, and they no more possess brimming coffers ready for giving away. These brothers are now wishing to become partners in all they offer us. We in Jordan are quite ready to strengthen our relations with the Arab countries on clear, sound and solid bases that could guarantee all parties' interests and the government would do its best to achieve that goal.

As to the world, we should realise that those nations with surplus funds and able to offer economic and financial assistance to others want to know how the aid will be spent; they refuse to offer financial aid unless they are sure the aid is connected with economic endeavours and are convinced of these efforts.

These nations are willing to offer funding for development projects in the form of grants and loans, especially if these are to finance regional schemes and have clear connection with supporting stability, peace and security.

I have not heard any person of good standing who demanded that the peace treaty be linked to the amount of financial aid. God forbid that anyone would do that. By signing the peace treaty, Jordan has given the world and our region a better chance for reconstruction and progress.

We have to realise our priorities and find a way to maximise the benefits for the country and create the right and sound channels for spending funds so that we can contain problems like unemployment and poverty. We do not want to spend funds for consumption but rather to transform the available funds into wealth for investments. Given the present situation

and the regional and international developments around us we sought to work out a budget that could reflect the reality and the aspirations based on clear principles and theories.

The Armed Forces and the Public Security will remain the country's defence shield and it is incumbent on us to keep them ready, well-prepared and supplied with up-to-date equipment. We need to build our future on a foundation of stability and security and be able to defend our rights and interests therefore we sought to find sufficient funds to achieve this goal.

The ministerial committee preparing the budget has been careful to adapt the volume of expenditure to the available funds.

It has introduced reasonable increases to the current expenses and the surplus has been distributed to capital projects. The projects to which the government is committed proved they require more funds than could be provided for from the surplus of the current expenses. Hence a deficit in the budget.

As to projects linked to the peace treaty, they were debated by the Council of

Ministers regarding their financing.

The required funds for

these projects will be available. We are seeking with all our might to acquire them and are giving this question top priority, because including projects in the budget without making arrangements for financing them would only increase the volume of deficit.

The government has

decided that the peace projects should be listed under the budget's supplement, but we are certain that they will be implemented through our relentless efforts.

You all realise that Jordan

has started applying an economic reform policy since 1989 and we are applying this within the framework of an ambitious programme. This policy has borne fruit and succeeded in rectifying many imbalances in our national economy, following years of inflation and a drop in the real economic growth and after a period when the balance of payment, the Jordanian foreign currency reserves and the rate of exchange of the Jordanian dinar fell under increased pressure, during the first half of 1994. But I must say that everything is back to normal now, in the

second half of the year.

Our main concern now is

unemployment and poverty which are closely linked because a solution to the unemployment problem would reduce the rate of poverty.

We ought to objectively

study the unemployment issue so that we can find an appropriate solution to it, especially by creating jobs and not merely by increasing the number of government employees which is costly to the state and bears serious consequences as the salaries are paid at the expense of

the budget's supplement, and ensure a fairer distribution of authority and a just distribution of gains for all.

We agree with the majority of people who look forward to reaping the benefit of peace and who aspire to a higher standard of living. But to achieve all these, the Kingdom is in need of obtaining external funds and we need to change our approach in dealing with the Arab region and the world at large so that we can attract further funds for more investment.

The government is determined to pursue efforts for the development of the country's industry. We will do all we can to improve production and the quality of products so that they can compete successfully with other products of the world.

Gammoh: Budget aims for self-reliance

(Continued from page 1)

age agricultural production and to provide the needed infrastructure and supporting farmers...

The most important measures taken by the government in the field of supporting investments and encouraging local industries and exports include the following...

a. In the field of the income tax, all the profits of the national exports, commodities and services were exempted from the income tax, thus increasing their competitiveness.

b. In the field of customs tariffs the following was done...

1. Exempting a large number of the inputs of the local industry of customs duties and reducing these duties on all electronic and electrical appliances and their parts as well as on car spares with the aim of encouraging investments in the assembly plants industries. Some 25 industrial ventures have benefitted from these exemptions.

2. Exempting all transport vehicles weighing over four tonnes of customs duties which reduces the transport costs and reflects positively on the costs of the local industry...

c. In the field of the general tax on sales, large numbers of primary materials for the input of domestic industries, such as pharmaceuticals, medical material, processed food supplies, lime and bricks and heaters were exempted from the sales tax...

Because of the importance of the tourism sector in view of its revenues in direct income in foreign currencies... the government has given this sector due concern that was reflected in activating the process of marketing Jordanian tourism in the domestic and foreign markets and developing touristic locations, especially in Petra. It was agreed to establish a regional council on the development and organisation of Petra... and the private sector has commenced the establishment of nine hotels in Petra which will provide 600 job opportunities, in addition to improving services related to this sector in all areas of the Kingdom... the government has finalised a comprehensive tourism development plan for the southern Aqaba and several companies have offered to establish hotels there.

Unemployment and poverty:

The government continues to have concern over the problems of unemployment and poverty since they are the main challenges facing the economic and social development processes.

The government has managed to curb the two phenomena through the following procedures:

1. Stepping up efforts to improve the investment climate and achieve good growth rates in the GDP to offer more job opportunities and improve incomes.

2. Creating about 6,500 new job opportunities within government departments in addition to opportunities provided by the capital projects.

3. Increasing allocations for the National Aid Fund (NAF) and supporting it to expand its services. The number of families benefiting from NAF's services has totalled 40,000 in 1994, com-

pared to 33,000 in 1993.

4. Activating the role of the development and employment fund through providing soft loans to small income-generating projects.

5. Expanding the financing of income generating projects in the countryside and the badia regions...

6. Enhancing the role of the Vocational Training Corporation...

It is worth mentioning here that there was a rise in the unemployment rate among the holders of scientific certificates, especially females, and at the same time the labour market was suffering from the scarcity of the workforce supply in specialised technical professions... meaning that there is a structural and behavioural unemployment in the Jordanian labour market...

The balance of payments:

The primary foreign trade figures show that the deficit in the trade balance this year has shown a seven per cent improvement over 1993 and this is due to a tangible rise in the value of the national commodity exports, which rose from JD 865 million in 1993 to JD 1,006 million in 1994, and that is an increase of 16 per cent. Regarding imports, they have risen from JD 2,450 million in 1993 to JD 2,480 million this year, reflecting a rise of 1.2 per cent.

It is expected that the surpluses in the services balance would register a slight retreat of 1.7 per cent, from JD 878 million in 1993 to JD 863 million in 1994....

It is expected that there would be a drop in the current account from JD 435 million in 1993 to JD 375 in 1994, or a 14 per cent drop. Thus, the current account deficit rate of the GDP will drop from 11.2 per cent in 1993 to 8.8 per cent in 1994...

Monetary and credit policy:

The Central Bank of Jordan has continued this year to adopt monetary and credit policies aiming to preserve internal and external monetary stability and to activate the role of the monetary market. The CBJ has taken large strides in the field of moving towards indirect administrative techniques in the monetary policy through issuing CBJ bonds as a principal means to manage this policy.

The adoption of this policy

has led to containing the monetary expansion to make it within the limit of 6.2 per cent during the first 10 months of the current year compared to an 8.1 per cent expansion in 1993. At the same time it was possible to give the private sector a suitable level of domestic credits with an increase of 18 per cent, as a result of the improvement in the performance of the government's monetary performance this year....

The Kingdom's reserves of foreign currency and the dinar exchange rate:

The Kingdom's reserves of foreign currencies have been exposed to repeated pressures during the first half of this year as a result of the unstable political conditions prevailing in the region. This caused a drop in the reserves in the end of June equaling JD 215 million compared to the end of 1993. But the problem was contained.

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General level of prices:

The actual statements of the first 10 months of 1994 show that the rise in the general level of prices did not exceed 3 per cent although the prices of food supplies have exceeded that rate, especially the prices of fruits and vegetables during the last two months of the period, and most of this is attributed to seasonal reasons...

The financial market:

It is expected that the volume of trade at the Amman Financial Market will reach about JD 500 million against JD 969 million in 1993, meaning a significant decline of 48.4 per cent. This was accompanied by a retreat in the stock market price index, which dropped from 158.5 points in the end of 1993 to 145.6 points in the end of November this year.

Of the most important reasons that led to this great retreat was the period of uncertainty prevailing in the region and investors' tendency to focus on shares of new companies, whose volume has risen from JD 92 million in 1993 to JD 285 million in 1994; that is an increase of 210 per cent. This rise in the volume of new issued shares emphasised the soundness of the government's policies in the field of encouraging investments which actively contributes to fighting unemployment in the end of November this year.

It is expected that the new age the region and the world are facing and the developments dictated by the political and economic developments will have direct impact on the economies of the region's countries, and namely Jordan. To be able to deal with these developments, the guidelines for Jordan's political and economic policies at the various international, Arab, regional and national levels can be defined as the following:

Internal debts:

By the end of 1994, internal debts have dropped to JD 1,089 million compared to JD 1,102 million in the end of 1993.

The new age the region and the world are facing and the developments will have direct impact on the economies of the region's countries, and namely Jordan. To be able to deal with these developments, the guidelines for Jordan's political and economic policies at the various international, Arab, regional and national levels can be defined as the following:

At the international level:

1. Explaining Jordan's position on national, regional and international issues in a convincing manner to enhance Jordan's status at all levels and to enable us to obtain the required support.

2. Seeking to reduce the volume of foreign debts...

3. Continuing efforts to focus on the international community to finance local and regional projects...

4. Taking serious and swift steps to sign a partnership agreement with the European Union (EU) and continue work to consolidate relations with other international economic blocs...

5. Paying due attention to the question of compensation for Jordanian expatriates who returned to their country in the wake of the Gulf war...

At the regional level:

1. Active participation in drawing the region's economic map.

2. Playing a pioneering role in crystallising regional economic blocs...

3. Continuous follow-up of resolutions taken by the economic summit conference held in Casablanca.

4. Preparing for the Amman Economic Summit...

At the Arab level:

1. Seeking an acceptable level of Arab integration for...

2. Working on mending fences between Jordan and other Arab countries...

3. Affirming the importance of political and economic coordination with the Palestinian National Authority and supporting its efforts to obtain international financing for the reconstruction of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

At the national level:

1. Stressing that the state's role is to organise the economic life, to work on enhancing the role of the market and to activate the supply and demand mechanism...

2. Encouraging individual initiatives and the private sec-

and the Kingdom's reserves of foreign currency and \$282 million to finance development projects.

As a result of the aforementioned it is expected that the Kingdom's foreign debts by the end of this year will total \$5.55 billion compared to \$6 billion in the end of 1993.

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General financials:

The government was keen to adopt financial policies aiming to continue the growth process, enhance self-reliance, decrease the budget deficit... rationalise government expenditure, encourage investments and update and develop financial legislations in a way conforming to the requirements of the coming stage through the following:

1. Confining to adopt the self-reliance policy...

2. Enacting the general sales tax law...

3. Reducing customs duties on some commodities...

4. Drafting several amended laws...

5. Implementing strict financial monitoring...

Foreign and domestic debts:

The government continued its efforts aiming to reduce the burdens of serving foreign debts... and obtained soft loans with low interest rates to support the Jordanian balance of payments and carried out vital development projects through the following:

1. Confining to adopt the self-reliance policy...

2. Enacting the general sales tax law...

3. Reducing customs duties on some commodities...

4. Drafting several amended laws...

5. Implementing strict financial monitoring...

General financials:

The government was keen to adopt financial policies aiming to continue the growth process, enhance self-reliance, decrease the budget deficit... rationalise government expenditure, encourage investments and update and develop financial legislations in a way conforming to the requirements of the coming stage through the following:

1. Confining to adopt the self-reliance policy...

6 Economy

GCC states urge foreign investment

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states have urged foreign businessmen to invest in their oil-rich region to take advantage of economic reforms aimed at neutralising the impact of weak crude prices.

The six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states said the private sector, which had been ignored for decades, was expected to take the lead in domestic economy as they pressed ahead with privatisations and other reforms.

"We feel that the private sector has an integral role to play in the process of economic diversification and growth. It is now in a position to participate fully in economic activity and eventually take the lead in future economic development," GCC Secretary General Fahim Al Qassimi told more than 300 foreign participants at an offset conference in Abu Dhabi.

"There are several other factors which helped create an environment in which investment has thrived. It is my

belief that if investors cannot find the right opportunities and investment conditions in the GCC, then they have not been successfully informed of all the benefits and opportunities," Sheikh Fahim said.

Sheikh Fahim said those factors covered a strong healthy economy, a modern infrastructure, a liberal commercial environment, abundant natural resources, growing domestic markets and a stable political climate.

GCC states — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — have embarked on reforms to revive their economies, which have been hurt by deteriorating oil prices.

The decline depressed their income to around \$70 billion in 1993 from more than \$180 billion in 1981.

The reforms include incentives for industrial projects, opening up their stock markets and privatisation of key public institutions.

Experts said the private sector's contribution to the

GCC gross domestic product was expected to surge in the next few years to more than 50 per cent from less than 40 per cent currently.

They noted its huge resources, estimated at more than \$160 billion invested in stocks and bank deposits abroad.

"Privatisation programmes will improve the commercial environment in the GCC by raising the efficiency and competitiveness of many sectors. Moreover, privatisation will provide many new investment opportunities and stimulate business activity," Sheikh Fahim said.

He said the introduction of offset programmes in most GCC countries had also created a large scope for foreign investment.

Under such programmes, arms suppliers must reinvest part of the deal in industrial and other sectors in the importing country.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil producer, has extended offset deals to the

civilian sector to attract capital while other GCC members are considering following suit.

Gulf officials said such programmes would help member states in obtaining technology, which is essential for economic diversification.

"As far as the offset programmes currently implemented in various Gulf states are concerned, some of the best opportunities for joint-venture projects in the non-oil sector are being offered," Sheikh Fahim said. "The GCC believes that potential investors will be hard pressed to find such detailed and attractive investment elsewhere."

Sheikh Fahim said the GCC controlled around 45 per cent of the world's total oil reserves and 15 per cent of the gas.

The 13-year-old alliance is also the second biggest trade market in the developing world, with imports standing at \$74 billion in 1993 and exports at \$92 billion, he added.

Britain raises interest rates by half a point

LONDON (R) — Britain raised official interest rates by half a percentage point to 6.25 per cent Wednesday to restore the government's authority after a humiliating parliamentary defeat, and to quell inflationary pressures.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke said the decision was taken at his regular monthly meeting with Bank of England Governor Eddie George Wednesday.

"This decision is in line with my clear policy of taking no risks with inflation," Mr. Clarke said in a statement. "The governor decided to implement the change immediately because there were no reasons for delay and he wanted to avoid market uncertainties," he added.

But analysts said the move, coming within 12 hours of the vote in parliament rejecting plans to double a tax on heating fuel, was also aimed at shore up the government's reputation and portraying it as tough and in control of events.

British markets welcomed the rise which had been expected some time within the next few weeks to keep emerging inflation pressures in check and cool down economic growth, now running at more than an annual four per cent.

Most analysts had not expected a rate rise until January on the assumption the authorities would want to avoid hitting retail sales in

the busy Christmas season. The last rise, also by half a percentage point, was on Sept. 12.

Britain's FTSE 100 index of leading shares firmed, as did the pound — which had weakened on last night's humiliating parliamentary defeat for the ruling Conservatives.

Government bond (gilt) prices also rose on perceptions British monetary authorities would earn some credibility by offsetting the rising political risk premium involved in holding sterling assets.

"The authorities have reacted firmly to the rising political concerns and to the worries about the strength of the recovery at the Bank of England by raising base rates," said Jeremy Hawkins, analyst at Bank of America in London.

"This is a positive move given the political difficulties which Clarke is under and should provide some support to the pound and ultimately to the gilt market," he said.

Mr. Clarke said the move was the "right response" to continuing signs in the last few months of inflationary pressures economic growth strengthened.

"I intend to deliver the plans I announced in the budget to return the PSBR (public sector borrowing requirement) to balance and to make the economy perform better," Mr. Clarke said.

THE AMMAN COLLECTIONS

Fine hand made gold & gems jewelry



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6th Circle. Amra Hotel Shops. Amman.

VOTE OF GRATITUDE

The Jordanian Textile Mission to Italy wishes on its return home after a very educative and informative tour of the Italian textile machinery plants to express its very deep gratitude and thanks to its hosts:

The Association of Textile Machinery Manufacturers

The Italian Institute for Foreign Trade;

and the Italian Trade Commission at the Italian Embassy in Jordan for the opportunity accorded to its members to acquaint themselves with the most advanced textile machinery and conduct gainful talks with manufacturers for prospective cooperation in mutual interests for opening active enterprises to aid the progress of the Jordanian textile industry.

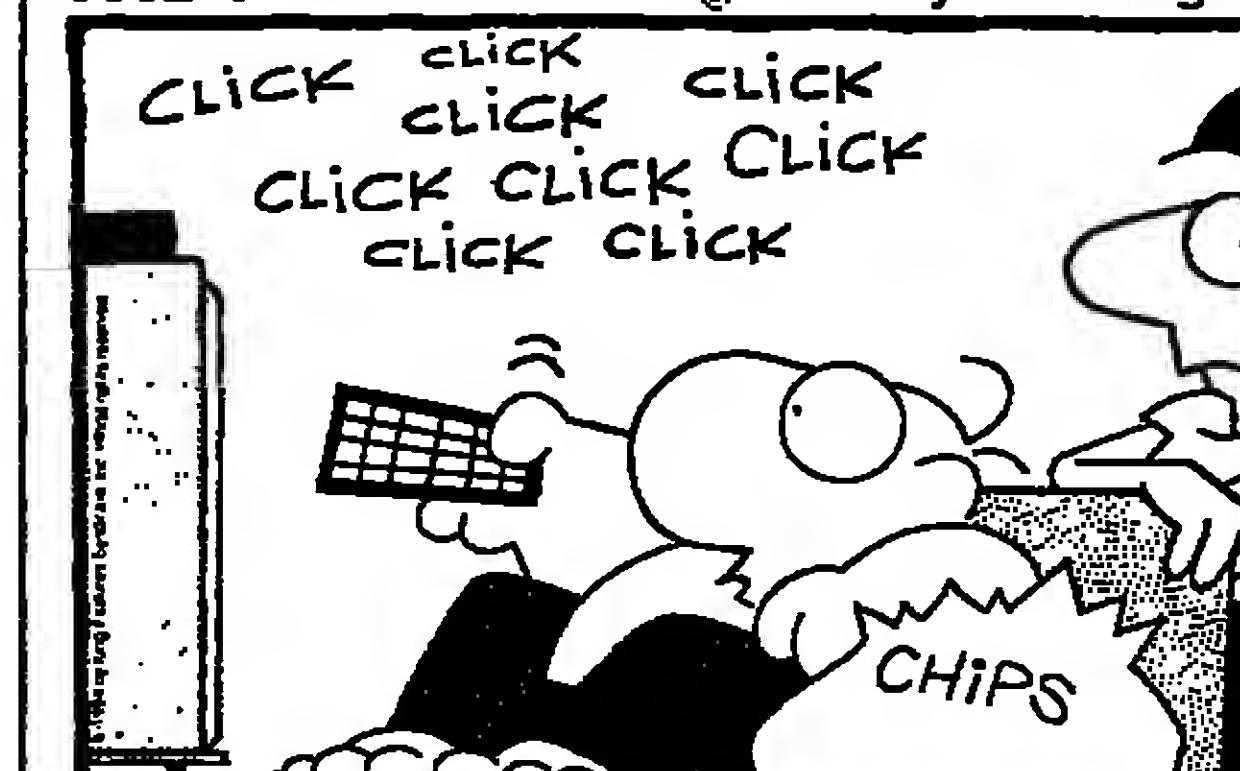
The Mission acknowledges with deep appreciation the efforts of the Chairman of the Arman Chamber of Industry (ACI) through whose good offices the beneficial tour was organised and coordinated.

The Mission offers its sincere thanks to all the Italian personnel organisers, entrepreneurs, and manufacturers who facilitated the tour and contributed to its success.

Enad El-Shamma', Deputy Treasurer/ACI, Mahmud Sla- man, Board Member/ACI, Eid Nimer Izz, Head of the Weaving Sub-Sector/ACI, Dr. Jamil Maraqqa, Muhy Eddin Al Jamal, Moh'd Wazzan, Mohammad Atout, Members of the Textile Sub-sector, and Mrs. Nadia Haddad/ACI.

THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen



"It's like dating — it's hard for men to commit to one channel if there might be better stuff on other channels!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Miles Arperton

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TUCEA

Credit: Tribune Media Services, Inc.
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BEDAK

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RIDFOB

© 1994

TUNESA

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Answer: AND

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumble: NOTCH OUNCE UPKEEP COOKIE

Answer: What the poultry farmer called the car he drove to market — HIS CHICKEN COUPE

Sudan and IMF reach agreement

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have reached agreement on all points of difference, a finance ministry statement said Wednesday. The statement carried by the official media said the IMF had approved a massive economic reform programme being implemented by the government of Lieutenant General Omer Al Bashir.

The programme includes the privatisation of loss-making public companies, the lifting of subsidies on almost all consumer commodities.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1994

By Thomas S. Pieron, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation
GENERAL TENDENCIES: Handle those affairs which will please and satisfy those you love, such as shopping, running errands and doing routine chores. Being helpful to others pays big dividends and shows others you care.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) If you don't disagree over money with partners, you find that later you can discuss matters between the both of you objectively.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 18) An associate can give you trouble in the morning, but later you can work out a monetary matter well and forget it.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Forget that worry about some assignment in the morning, and later you can go after what you most want and get it.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Steer clear of a demanding new acquaintance in the morning, and later you can plan a new campaign of action which is successful.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Avoid an irate higher-up and be with the persons you like. Make sure your car is in good running order so you do not create any delays.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) Forget making some drastic and costly changes, and get into your duties with vim and vigor. Don't be afraid to ask for a favour.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 21) Don't carp over a debt, but put some new ideas to work which can bring you added income quickly. Learn from new contacts.

SCORPIO: (October 22 to November 21) Avoid a partner who is disagreeable. Be with your mate for a delightful day and evening. Show that you are practical in your personal life.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Steer clear of a disturbed fellow associate, and then talk over with clever friends how you want the relationship to develop.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Get busy at duties ahead of you. Don't spend money on pleasure. Make your home life more charming by changing your attitude.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get into some form of recreation with friends outdoors which can relieve the tension you are under. Express some talent you have.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get home affairs nicely handled, and don't go flying off on some tangent. Bring out that Piscean charm and make others happy by your attitude.

Birthstone of December: Turquoise - Zircon

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1994

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The daytime finds you able to get things done correctly by using your best analytical judgement despite the doubleboon square, difficult aspects, as long as you double check any decisions made.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) If you don't run off on some tangent, you will find that good things can happen. Show that you have a good head on your shoulders.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 18) Don't change your mind about some investment in the morning. Take time for some social pleasure in the evening with your loved one.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Forget that errant wish in the morning. Show your true devotion to your mate. This brings about greater happiness in the days ahead.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Don't force another to do what you wish in the morning. Later you can be with good friends. The evening can be happy.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Avoid that argument between a good friend and an attachment, and find an easier way of gaining your personal aims and desires.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) You feel like making drastic changes both at home and in business, but this would not be wise. Stick to your regular duties.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 21) Forget that unnecessary errand, and concentrate on how to improve your regular set-up. Show associates you want to get along famously with them now.

SCORPIO: (October 22 to November 21) Forget financial concerns and listen to what an expert has to tell you concerning ways to make greater progress in your business endeavours.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Find some way of getting more self-control, and then make the changes which you deem wise. Plan a necessary trip to solve a difficulty.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You want to turn against tasks ahead of you but soon you change your mind and become very efficient in the assignments which confront you.

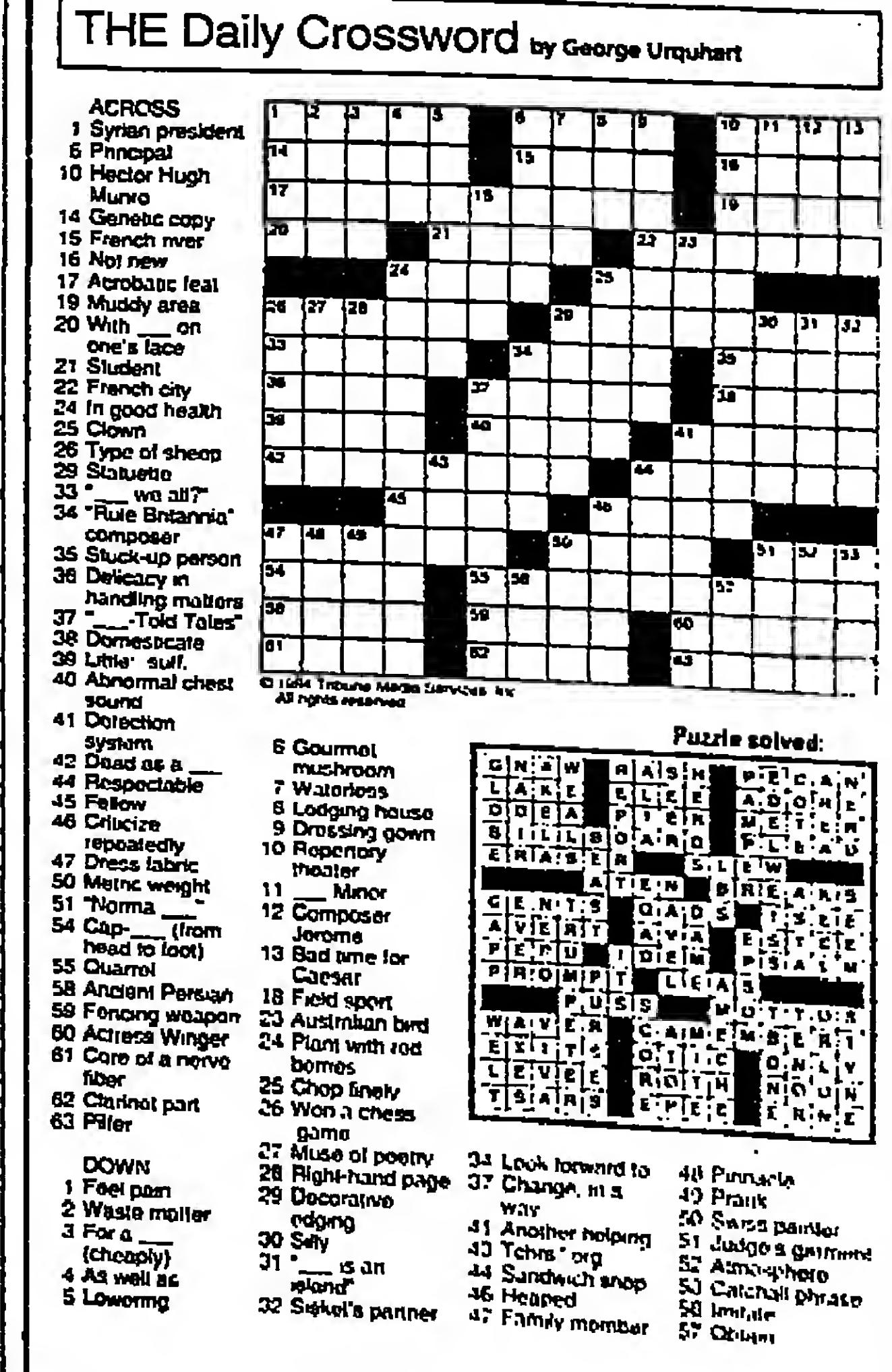
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Some private anxiety could deter you from making plans for entertainment you like if you permit. Work out affairs sensibly.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Plan what should be done so that you can gain that feeling of well being you desire. Don't give anyone cause for criticism about some assignment.

Birthstone of December: Turquoise - Zircon

THE Daily Crossword

by George Urquhart



Iran welcomes U.S., British investment

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A senior Iranian official said here Tuesday that Tehran now welcomes U.S. and British investment, underlining a new drive to lure major Western conglomerates that were for long shunned by the Islamic republic.

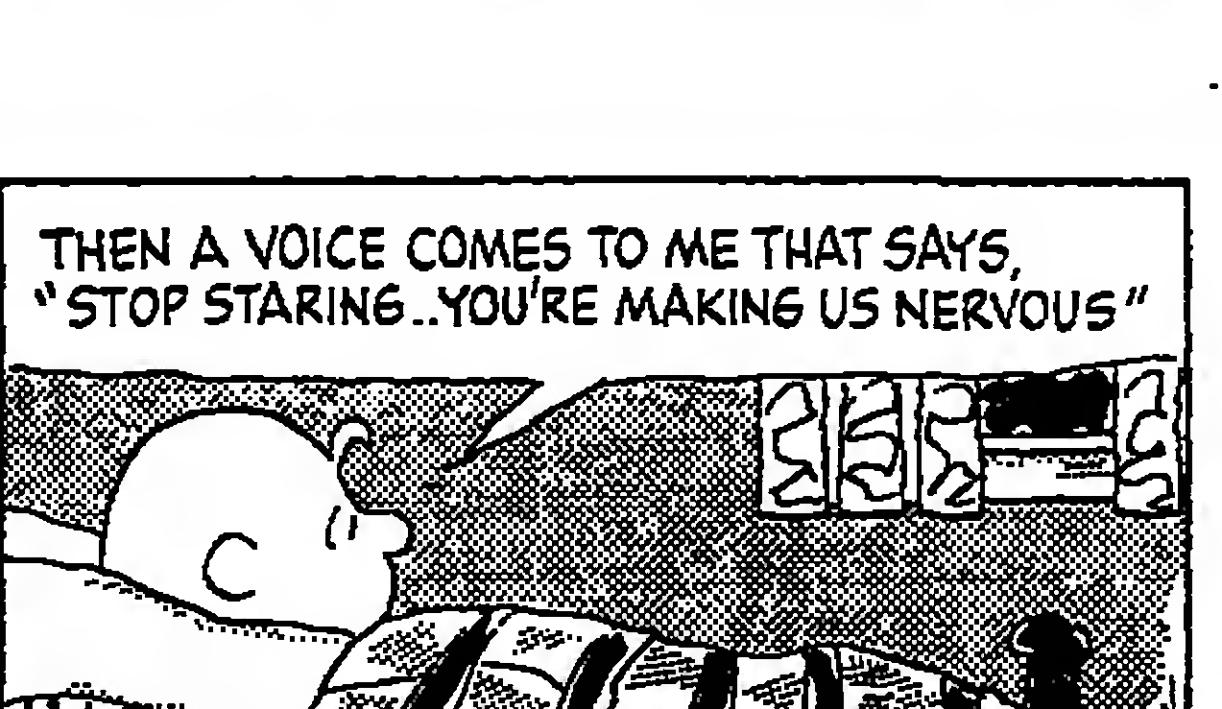
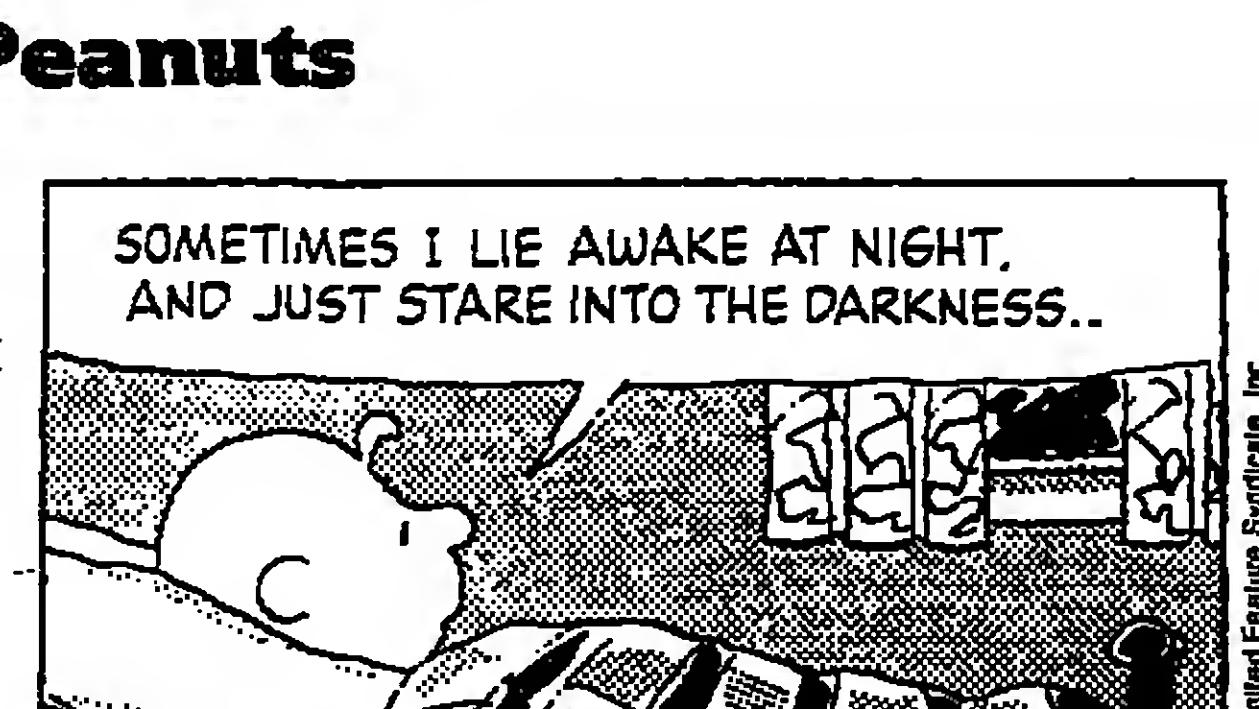
Morteza Alviri, advisor to President Hashemi Rafsanjani, said Iran was inviting foreign investment, including American and British but not

pragmatists who advocate a freer economy and wider economic links with the West, have blocked much of his effort.

U.S. efforts to isolate Iran on the grounds that it supports international terrorism and seeks to develop nuclear weapons that could threaten its rivals, have helped frighten off potential investors.

Internal political woes and stringent laws limiting foreign ownership have also led fore-

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Business & Finance

**Business
Daily
Press**
A review
of economic news
from the Arabic press

Ministry of Supply saves about JD 500,000

Large numbers of people preferred not to use Ministry of Supply coupons to buy Vietnamese rice and opted to buy other kinds of rice at higher prices. Merchants have declined to sell sugar for the rice coupons and even declined to sell better quality rice against the ministry coupons (for Vietnamese rice) plus the price difference. The consumer refusal to use the coupons enabled the Ministry of Supply to save more than JD 500,000 (Al Dustour).

After awarding a tender to widen the entrance to the city of Aqaba, the Ministry of Public Works is now engaged in preparing to build new roads in Aqaba and a 65-kilometre road that will link Wadi Araba with the Desert Road, passing through the Disheh area (Al Aswaq).

A former agriculture minister calls for a reconsideration of the set up, work and objectives of the Ministry of Agriculture. He says that some agricultural institutions, such as the Cooperative Organisation, are not needed any more and have become a burden on the national economy (Al Dustour).

The Arab Maritime Bridge Company will have in 15 months' time a new administration building in Aqaba under a JD 969,458 contract signed with a contracting firm. The work also involves building villas within the vicinity of the project for the company's staff (Sawt Al Shaab).

Adnan Al Mufti, board chairman of Jordan Express Tourist Transport (JETT) is making contacts to expand the fleet of tourist buses to meet a tourism boom expected soon (Sawt Al Shaab).

The Orphans' Fund provided JD 4.5 million for murabaha (profit-sharing) investments from the beginning of the year until the end of November 1994. The investments were spread over 1,702 murabaha schemes. The institution has recently bought 18.5 dunums of land in Aqaba to build residential apartment and commercial markets (Al Ra'i).

A total of 106,139 employment applications were presented to the Civil Service Commission until the end of last month. Of the total, only 5,081 were hired. Among the applicants there were 223 with a doctorate degree (six were hired) and 1,099 with a masters degree (301 were hired) (Sawt Al Shaab).

A new company, which has not yet decided on an official name for it in English, is being established as a holding company with a JD 1.5 million capital. The entity, whose name could be translated from Arabic as the Jordanian National Company, aims at investing in shares and stocks among other objectives. Founders who have subscribed to 75 per cent of the capital include: Union Bank for Savings and Investment (112,500 shares), Fouad Kostantine (112,500 shares), Fawzi Shnoudah (93,750 shares), George Abu Khader (75,000 shares), Jordan-Gulf Bank (75,000 shares), Wasim Maqqadah (65,750 shares), Suhaib Maqqadah (60,000 shares) and the International Arab Union Insurance (37,500 shares). The remaining 25 per cent of the capital will be floated for public subscription soon (Al Aswaq).

A detailed study concluded that the negative effects of the recent customs tariff reductions outweighed the positive effects and that the measures did not abide by the 30-50 per cent range of protection for local industry (Al Aswaq).

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET						
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	TRADED VOL.	PREV. CLOSING PRICE JD	CLOSING PRICE	PRICE	DATE
ARAB BANK	120	22,110	184.000	184.250	1.660	07/12/94
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	11,550	52,742	4.590	4.550		
BANK OF JORDAN	6,470	25,370	3.900	3.930		
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	2,350	7,003	2.980	2.980		
THE HOUSING BANK	1,350	7,480	5.600	5.550		
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	552	1,662	3.050	2.980		
JORDAN GULF BANK	6,750	11,236	1.670	1.660		
JORDAN ECONOMIC BANK	11,172	41,038	3.720	3.650		
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	100,900	544,500	5.100	5.050		
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	2,000	2,75	4.950	4.950		
BET ELMA'L SAVING & INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	265	869	3.320	3.270		
ARMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	116,588	178,990	1.520	1.540		
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	56	214	3.620	3.830		
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	5,317	9,379	1.750	1.770		
JORDAN INSURANCE	1,000	3,400	3.400	3.400		
JORDAN LIFE INSURANCE	320	1,360	4.200	4.200		
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	1,750	3,056	2.200	2.220		
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	1,250	1,368	1.570	1.560		
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER /NEW	14,671	22,299	1.520	1.520		
JORDAN HEMER MINERAL	200	310	1.480	1.550		
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	6,450	33,593	5.300	5.190		
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	10,400	33,827	3.260	3.220		
INTERNATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	905	2,242	2.490	2.500		
REAL STATE INVESTMENT	1,500	2,050	1.400	1.570		
JORDAN GULF PETROLEUM INVESTMENT	10,075	12,291	1.080	1.050		
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER	2,250	1,845	0.830	0.820		
MACHINERY EQUIP. RESTING & MAINTENANCE	200	2,330	11.950	11.700		
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRA'I	27,500	68,758	2.510	2.500		
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	1,000	3,370	3.390	3.370		
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	1,500	2,085	1.390	1.390		
JORDAN EXPATRIATES INVESTMENT HOLDING	71,624	207,025	2.880	2.860		
JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	1,350	3,656	2.730	2.670		
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	550	5,434	9.360	9.350		
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	950	4,703	4.350	4.350		
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	10,775	10,755	1.150	1.100		
JORDAN WOOLTEX MILLS	1,350	16,428	6.140	5.870		
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	574	1,292	2.250	2.260		
JORDAN DAIRY	450	1,310	2.900	2.910		
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	1,000	4,180	4.120	4.180		
JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	10,600	106,336	17.450	17.450		
DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	10,000	10,314	1.040	1.030		
ARAB AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	1,050	7,343	7.000	7.000		
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	11,926	11,631	1.000	0.960		
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	5,250	7,423	1.430	1.410		
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	1,000	4,300	4.350	4.300		
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	2,450	7,058	2.940	2.850		
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	8,500	13,585	1.600	1.570		
JORDAN ROCKWOOL INDUSTRIES	3,500	2,935	0.850	0.830		
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JISCO						
G R A N D T O T A L		514,689	1,710,335			

Financial Markets In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 6/12/94	Tokyo Close Date 7/12/94			
Sterling Pound	1.5623	1.5635**			
Deutsche Mark	1.5724	1.5664			
Swiss Franc	1.5278	1.5251**			
French Franc	5.3995	5.3808**			
Japanese Yen	100.10	99.77			
European Currency Unit	1.2130	1.2122**			
U.S. Per STD European Opening at 800.0000 UMT					
Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 7/12/1994					
Currency	1 MONTH	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. Dollar	5.87	6.06	6.50	7.06	
Sterling Pound	5.68	6.25	6.75	7.35	
Deutsche Mark	5.12	5.12	5.25**	5.50**	
Swiss Franc	3.37	-4.00	4.25	4.56	
French Franc	5.31	5.50	5.75	6.12	
Japanese Yen	2.18	2.18	2.31	2.56	
European Currency Unit	5.75	5.87	6.12	6.62	
Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent					
Precious Metals Date: 7/12/1994					
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm ²	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm ²
Gold	577.00	7.50	Silver	4.68	0.105
21 Karat					
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 7/12/1994					
Currency	Bid	Offer			
U.S. Dollar	0.7010	0.7030			
Sterling Pound	1.0954	1.1009			
Deutsche Mark	0.4472	0.4494			
Swiss Franc	0.5292	0.5318			
French Franc	0.1302	0.1309			
Japanese Yen	0.7018	0.7053			
Dutch Guilder	0.3993	0.4013			
Swedish Krona	*****	*****			
Italian Lira	0.0433	0.0435			
Belgian Franc	*****	*****			
Other Currencies Dates: 7/12/1994					
Currency	Bid	Offer			
Bahraini Dinar	1.8450	1.8600			
Lebanese Lira ²	0.047355	0.047585			
Saudi Riyal	0.1858	0.1878			
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3550	2.3650			
Qatari Riyal	0.1913	0.1927			
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150			
Omani Riyal	1.8050	1.8220			
UAE Dirham	0.1903	0.1912			
Greek Drachma ³	0.2685	0.3185			
Cypriot Pound	1.3825	1.5115			
Per 100					

Jordan Times Tel.: 667171

**Italy to extend \$3m for feasibility study of Red Sea-Dead Sea canal**

By Sama Abu Sharar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Italy will extend the

2nd round of Jordan Soccer Championship kicks off today

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Kingdom's top soccer teams return to action Thursday when the second round of the First Division Soccer Championship kicks off after a three-week break.

For the first time in years, no team has taken a clearcut lead, making the remaining 66 matches of the competition more interesting as between the top five teams there is a mere four point difference.

At the end of the first round, Al Wihdat topped the standings with 19 points, followed by Al Hussein with 18, Al Faisali and Al Ramtha tied with 16, Al Jazireh were fifth with 15.

The other teams lagging in last four places facing relegation were Al Arabi, Shabab Al Hussein, Al Karmel and Al Jeel. Al Arabi and Kufrsoum maintained a halfway position, while Al Qadissieh exchanged places with Al Arabi and joined them in the 11th week after languishing in 9th place for some time.

A total of 186 goals were scored in the past 66 matches, a relatively high number, putting the average at 2.8 per match. The number of bookings was also high, at 184, with 10 red card suspensions, four of which for Al Karmel players.

The competition is scheduled to be completed with the Hussein-Faisali match on Jan. 27.

In the upcoming 12th week, titleholders Al Faisali play Al Ahli; Al Jazireh clash with Al Wihdat; Al Jeel meet Shabab Al Hussein; Al Arabi take on Al Ramtha; Al Qadissieh play Kufrsoum and Al Karmel face Al Hussein.

Here's an analysis of the competing teams as they enter the second round of the competition.

Al Wihdat

The team with the most avoid fans. Al Wihdat last won the title in 1991.

The former champions

alternated their lead at the top with Al Hussein before ending the first round with a one point lead.

Al Wihdat are joined by many promising players this year, including Abdallah Abu Zameh and Ali Jum'a.

The team had a low scoring record at 14-3 and their best striker was Jihad Abdul Mun'eem with four goals.

Al Wihdat remain the only unbeaten team in the competition, winning eight and drawing in three of their matches.

Al Wihdat's most decisive results were 1-1 with Al Hussein, 1-0 over Al Faisali, 0-0 with Al Ramtha and 1-0 over Al Jazireh.

However, they failed to score better against lowly teams, like their mere 1-0 win over last placed Al Jeel, 2-0 over Al Karmel, 1-0 over Al Qadissieh and Kufrsoum. They also drew 0-0 with Al Arabi and scored 3-1 wins over Al Arabi and Shabab Al Hussein and 2-0 over Al Karmel.

Al Hussein

Al Hussein lost the lead to Al Wihdat in the 11th week after a goalless draw against titleholders Al Faisali which paved the way for Al Wihdat's reign at the top after a 3-1 win over Al Arabi.

Al Hussein are the top scoring team so far with a 30-10 record.

They are eagerly anticipating clinching the title for the first time, and have entered the competition with good morale after defeating Al Faisali in August to win their first major title — the 1994 Federation Shield.

Al Hussein's most impressive results were 5-2 and 5-1 wins over Kufrsoum and Al Qadissieh, and 4-0 victories over Al Arabi, Shabab Al Hussein, and Al Karmel.

Their only defeat was 2-0 to Al Ramtha. They were held to draws 0-0 with Al Faisali and 1-1 with Al Wihdat. They defeated Al

Jazireh 1-0, Al Ahli 4-3 and Al Jeel 2-1.

Their top scorers were Munib Gharabebeh, Aref Hussein and Khaled Khataeb with four goals each.

Al Faisali

The second most scoring team with a 21-6 record, the titleholders remained in third place after a surprisingly inconsistent front.

Nevertheless, they only lost one match to Al Wihdat.

Al Faisali had a bad start to the season, drawing 1-1 with Al Ahli then losing 1-0 to Al Wihdat in the first two matches.

They had goalless draws with Al Ramtha and Al Hussein and barely beat Al Jazireh 2-1.

Their wins were 2-0 over Kufrsoum, 5-0 over Al Arabi, 3-2 over Shabab Al Jeel, 2-0 over Al Karmel, 4-0 over Al Qadissieh and Kufrsoum. They also drew 0-0 with Al Arabi and scored 3-1 wins over Al Arabi and Shabab Al Hussein and 2-0 over Al Karmel.

Al Ramtha

Al Ramtha came in fourth place on goal difference as they drew with Al Faisali in overall points and had the same results (6 wins, 4 draws, and one defeat).

Their 0-0 ties with Al Faisali and Al Wihdat, and 2-0 win over Al Hussein kept Al Ramtha among the top five during the first round.

Their only defeat was 1-0 to Al Ahli. They drew 1-1 with Al Jazireh and Al Arabi and defeated Kufrsoum 4-0, Al Qadissieh 2-0, Shabab Al Hussein 2-1, Al

Standings after 1st round

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Wihdat	11	8	3	—	14	3	19
Hussein	11	8	2	1	30	10	18
Faisali	11	6	4	1	21	6	16
Ramtha	11	6	4	1	19	5	16
Jazireh	11	7	1	3	8	15	15
Ahli	11	4	3	4	13	14	11
Kufrsoum	11	5	1	5	19	21	11
Qadissieh	11	2	4	5	12	18	8
Arabi	11	3	2	6	13	22	8
Shabab Al Hussein	11	1	3	7	15	26	5
Karmel	11	1	2	8	8	26	4
Jeel	11	1	1	10	6	27	1

Karmel 5-0, Al Jeel 2-1. Striker Mouaffaq Abu Hdeib was Al Ramtha's and the league's top scorer with 10 goals.

Al Jazireh

Al Jazireh were one of the most consistent teams during the first round.

While maintaining the image of a lowly team, often threatened with relegation throughout past seasons, Al Jazireh defied expectations and remained among the top five after scoring a total of seven wins, including five consecutive ones; they scored 1-0 wins over Al Ahli, Kufrsoum and Al Arabi. 2-0 over Al Qadissieh and Al Karmel, 3-1 over Shabab Al Hussein and 4-0 over Al Jeel.

Their only draw was 1-1 with Al Ramtha. They lost 1-0 to Al Hussein and Al Wihdat and 2-1 to Al Faisali.

Al Ramtha

Al Ramtha came in fourth place on goal difference as they drew with Al Faisali in overall points and had the same results (6 wins, 4 draws, and one defeat).

Despite drawing with Al Wihdat 0-0 and Al Faisali 1-1, Al Ahli were upset 4-0 by lowly newcomers Shabab Al Hussein, 1-0 by Al Jazireh and 3-1 to Kufrsoum.

Their top scorer was Mustafa Adam with 3 goals.

Al Ahli

Al Ahli hope to improve their form and advance their standing after disappointing their fans throughout most of the competition.

Despite drawing with Al Wihdat 0-0 and Al Faisali 1-1, Al Ahli were upset 4-0 by lowly newcomers Shabab Al Hussein, 1-0 by Al Jazireh and 3-1 to Kufrsoum.

Their top scorer was Mustafa Adam with 3 goals.

Al Karmel

Although having a relatively good start to the season, Al Arabi are now in the last four threatened with relegation and must therefore improve their record and hope to maintain a halfway standing to stay in the prestigious league.

They are now tied with Al Qadissieh with 8 points but dropped to ninth place in the little week on goal difference.

Their only wins were

over the last placed three teams. They drew 1-1 with Al Ramtha and Kufrsoum but lost 3-1 to Al Wihdat, 4-0 to Al Hussein and drew 1-1 with Al Qadissieh to finish sixth after the first round of the competition.

Al Jeel

Their top scorer was Ayman Al Omari with six goals.

Shabab Al Hussein

Their only win was a surprising 4-0 over Al Ahli; however the team failed to improve their 10th place standing after losing 7 matches and managing only three 1-1 draws with Al Jeel, Al Karmel and Al Qadissieh.

Maher Sarsour was their top scorer with five goals.

Al Karmel

The other newcomer scored only victory in the 10th week defeating Al Jeel 3-2. Their 1-1 draws with Al Qadissieh and Shabab Al Hussein enabled them to move into 11th place. Losing eight matches has kept them in clear danger of relegation.

Their top scorer was Nizar Sharshik with two goals.

Al Jeel

The only winless team in the competition, Al Jeel lost 1-0 matches and earned only one point in the standings after a 1-1 draw with Shabab Al Hussein.

Their top scorer was Yousef Obeidat, who is also the league's second best so far with eight goals.

Al Qadissieh

The team's only other win was 3-1 over Al Arabi.

They drew 1-1 with Al Faisali, Al Ahli, Shabab Al Hussein and Al Karmel.

Al Qadissieh lost five matches: 1-0 to Al Wihdat, 5-1 to Al Hussein, 2-0 to Al Ramtha, 2-1 to Al Jazireh and 3-2 to Kufrsoum.

Their top scorer was Mustafa Adam with 3 goals.

Al Arabi

Although having a relatively good start to the season, Al Arabi are now in the last four threatened with relegation and must therefore improve their record and hope to maintain a halfway standing to stay in the prestigious league.

They are now tied with Al Qadissieh with 8 points but dropped to ninth place in the little week on goal difference.

Their top scorer was



Pete Sampras

Becker battles to win; Sampras breezes through

Becker will meet Ivanisevic. Sampras was beaten by Yzaga in five sets in the round of 16 at the U.S.

"Every year I tell them it would be better tennis to watch and to play if they slow it down, but it seems like the same fast court," said Sampras, who won the inaugural tournament in 1990.

Sampras dominated the ATP Tour this year, winning two Grand Slam titles, the Australian Open and Wimbledon. He also clinched the ATP Tour world championship last month in Frankfurt for his 10th title of the year.

With his two Grand Slam titles, Sampras will collect a \$500,000 bonus — \$250,000 for each title. The winner's purse here is \$1.5 million and Sampras could clear \$2 million.

Yzaga, like all first-round losers, collected \$100,000.

The tournament invites players with the best records in the four Grand Slam tournaments in the world, and nine out of the top 10 players in the world are here.

French Open champion Sergi Bruguera and U.S. Open champion Andre Agassi were to play later Wednesday.

But a searing forehand down the line set up a break and set point for Becker and when Ferreira hit a backhand into the net, the German was back in the match.

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Spanish teams crash out of UEFA quarterfinals

PARIS (AP) — Real Madrid, Athletic, Bilbao and Deportivo La Coruna crashed out of the UEFA Cup Tuesday on a night which saw Italian and German clubs move smoothly into the quarterfinals.

Real Madrid set the scene for a series of Spanish disasters when they fell to an injury-time sucker punch in their third round home encounter with rank Danish outsiders Odense.

The Spanish side, who had won the away leg 3-2 with a last-minute goal of their own from Michael Laudrup, looked sure of qualification on Tuesday — even after slipping 1-0 behind to a 73rd minute goal from Ulrik Pedersen.

But they — and 55,000 spectators in the Bernabeu Stadium — were left stunned

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Verdict expected today 8 Turkish Kurd MPs may face execution

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkey's controversial trial of eight Kurdish former members of parliament, who face the death penalty for separatism, is due to end here today (Thursday) with delivery of a verdict which could have far-reaching consequences on Turkish relations with the West.

The seven men and a woman on trial in the state security court were members of the pro-Kurdish Party of Democracy, disbanded by the government last June.

The charges against them, of separation and breaching the integrity of the state, strike at the very principles of the "one and indivisible" Turkish nation envisaged by the reformer Mustafa Kemal Ataturk when he founded the republic in 1923.

The prosecution has called for death sentences under section 125 of the penal code.

No death sentences have been carried out in Turkey for a decade.

Christopher: Arafat recognises Israel's security demands

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AFP) — PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat understands Israeli security demands ahead of the next stage of autonomy, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Wednesday.

"The chairman understands there will be no peace without security both for Israel and the Palestinians," Mr. Christopher told a press conference at Palestinian Authority headquarters.

The secretary added: "He made it clear he understands his responsibilities in the struggle against terrorism and violence."

Israeli and PLO delegations began negotiating in Cairo on Tuesday the next phase of self-rule, with the Jewish state's army pressing for a delay in the scheduled redeployment of the army on the West Bank.

After the murder of 45 Israelis since the launch of autonomy in May, the army fears redeployment will expose the 120,000 Jewish settlers on the West Bank.

"We had a very fruitful and positive meeting," Mr. Arafat said. "We talked about very quick elections and about the need for security for the Israelis."

The fate of the defendants, six of them held in prison since March and two since July, has created a furor in Western parliamentary circles and is souring Turkey's links with its allies.

They see the trial as an infringement of freedom of expression and of the principles of parliamentary democracy. There is no imputation of violence in the charges, which basically accuse the eight one-time MPs of making seditious statements, the allies argue.

But the Turkish state views the eight as spokesmen in parliament for the separatist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which for 10 years has been battling the army in the Kurdish heartland of Anatolia in south-eastern Turkey, with a loss to date of some 15,000 lives.

MPs, lawyers and human rights campaigners have come to Turkey from Western countries to voice their dis-

quiet and to ask that the trial be dropped and the defendants freed. Some European lawyers, unable to plead the case of the eight in Turkey itself, are doing so in Europe.

A European diplomat said a "trap is waiting to be sprung" on Turkey. The death sentence or hefty prison sentences "would be very badly received in Europe."

French President Francois Mitterrand warned Turkey Tuesday that death sentences against the eight MPs would be a serious attack on human rights.

Mr. Mitterrand has written to other European leaders urging them to join him in supporting the deputies, according to aides.

"I hope it will be possible for you to join me in this action. In any case, I will appeal to public opinion," Mr. Mitterrand wrote to his European partners in an appeal for their support, the aides said.

A few, if any, observers expect the summit to produce any sufficient solution to the crisis which is seen to have exposed the fragility of the EU's security structures in an era in which NATO is facing an identity crisis with the demise of the Eastern bloc and the communist threat which the Atlantic alliance was created to counter.

The conflict in the Balkans is among a few foreign policy issues that will be on the agenda of the 12 European leaders who are hard-pressed to tackle domestic issues amidst fears that their performance on these matters will not be much better than that on the Bosnian crisis.

Newspaper reports quoted leading European businessmen as expressing fear that the economic recovery the comment is experiencing could render the European leaders complacent in tackling economic problems that can be solved only through adopting painful economic restructuring programmes.

Economic experts have little expectation that the summit will be able to produce sufficient solutions to an unemployment crisis from which the majority of EU countries are suffering.

Measures to handle the jobless problem will require huge cuts in government's expenditure and social benefits, unpopular steps that not many governments are willing to take as the European economies are showing a slow, but steady recovery.

But despite the EU's pressing need to focus on domestic issues, European officials say the summit, which will mark the end of the German presidency of the union, will address its

"Unless there's security, it's clear that the other commitments cannot be met," Christopher said Tuesday.

The secretary had voiced strong support for Israel's concerns on Tuesday.

"We've been pressing the Palestinians to ensure they fulfill their commitments to halt terror and violence," he said.

"Unless there's security, it's clear that the other commitments cannot be met," Christopher said Tuesday.

He arrived in Gaza aboard a 20-vehicle motorcade escorted by Palestinian outriders following talks with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Jerusalem.

Israeli helicopters circled over the authority's seaport offices which were protected by a large number of security men as the meeting took place.

It was Mr. Christopher's second visit to Gaza where he met Mr. Arafat in July, two months after the start of autonomy.

He returned to Jerusalem for talks with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in the evening before leaving Israel on Thursday morning.

Detainees disappear, says Egyptian rights body

CAIRO (AFP) — Growing numbers of people are disappearing after being arrested in Egypt, where 16 new cases were recorded this year, the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights said in a report published Wednesday.

The organisation expressed "considerable concern" at the phenomenon, which was "unknown in Egypt until four years ago."

It said the disappearances of people in detention raised "serious fears that they may have already lost their lives."

Three such cases were recorded in the organisation's first report on the issue in July 1991, and three more

cases were brought to light in 1993, but "1994 has witnessed an unprecedented, high rate of enforced disappearance," with 16 new cases, recorded, the organisation said.

They included the disappearance last December of a prominent Libyan dissident in Cairo, Mansur Rashid Kikha. The former Libyan foreign minister was a member of the Arab Human Rights Organisation's directorate.

The Libyan government denied allegations that it had kidnapped Mr. Kikha. The other cases involved men who disappeared after arrest.

"Most persons were arrested by State Security Investigations (SSI) agents either from their houses, workplaces or from the street. They were taken to unknown places," the report said.

Some had been missing since 1992, but the organisation only included them in the list "after losing all hope of being able either to find them or to determine their places of detention."

The report said the organisation had "exhausted all possible legal avenues and knocked on all administrative doors that may be of assistance in disclosing the fate of these persons."

Iran ready to send 10,000 troops to Bosnia

GENEVA (AFP) — Iran is ready to send 10,000 troops to serve with the U.N. force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Iran's foreign minister said Wednesday, but said some Security Council members were apparently against the idea.

"We are ready to send 10,000 troops, who are well equipped, to Bosnia under the flag of the United Nations," said Ali Akbar Velayati, speaking to journalists here.

He said Iran and several other Islamic nations had proposed in October to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali to send at least 20,000 men to Bosnia.

But Dr. Ghali "said that some of the permanent members of the Security Council

are against it."

No countries were named, but the five permanent members are the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia.

"If you don't have enough peacekeeping forces we are ready to send at least 20,000 troops from Iran, Pakistan, Turkey and Malaysia," Mr. Velayati said he told Dr. Ghali.

On Tuesday, foreign ministers from countries in the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), meeting here, scolded the U.N. of bombing its mission in Bosnia — which has a Muslim-led government — and urged the U.N. to boost the U.N. Protection Force there from its current 24,000 troops to 35,000.

Arab Gulf military integration moving slowly

By Ashraf Fouad

Reuter

DUBAI — Gulf Arab states are gradually expanding their small joint army but an ambitious plan to standardise and eventually integrate their defences appears to be some way off. Arab military experts and diplomats said.

"They are not abandoning the goal but they now have greater appreciation of the difficulties involved," said an Arab expert of plans drawn up by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

GCC leaders are to discuss at an annual summit in Bahrain later this month how much has been done so far about an earlier decision to double their joint Peninsula Shield Force, based in Saudi Arabia, to around 17,000

European summit to tackle Bosnia, Mediterranean, E. Europe ties

From Ayman Al Safadi in Brussels

HEADS OF STATE of the European Union (EU) countries begin a two-day summit in the German city of Essen Friday in the shadow of what many see as the embarrassing failure of the group in dealing with Europe's first major security challenge in the post-cold war era: the Bosnian crisis.

A few, if any, observers expect the summit to produce any sufficient solution to the crisis which is seen to have exposed the fragility of the EU's security structures in an era in which NATO is facing an identity crisis with the demise of the Eastern bloc and the communist threat which the Atlantic alliance was created to counter.

The conflict in the Balkans is among a few foreign policy issues that will be on the agenda of the 12 European leaders who are hard-pressed to tackle domestic issues amidst fears that their performance on these matters will not be much better than that on the Bosnian crisis.

Newspaper reports quoted leading European businessmen as expressing fear that the economic recovery the comment is experiencing could render the European leaders complacent in tackling economic problems that can be solved only through adopting painful economic restructuring programmes.

Economic experts have little expectation that the summit will be able to produce sufficient solutions to an unemployment crisis from which the majority of EU countries are suffering.

Measures to handle the jobless problem will require huge cuts in government's expenditure and social benefits, unpopular steps that not many governments are willing to take as the European economies are showing a slow, but steady recovery.

But despite the EU's pressing need to focus on domestic issues, European officials say the summit, which will mark the end of the German presidency of the union, will address its



Middle Eastern policy and means of consolidating cooperation between the two regions.

European officials say the summit will discuss a proposal by the European Commission to start a long-term 5 billion European currency units (ECU) development package to the Mediterranean region. Though it is very unlikely that the summit will reach a decision on the proposal, European officials expect the EU leaders to approve a proposal to hold a conference for cooperation with the Mediterranean region in late 1995, when Spain holds the presidency.

They also expect the summit to result in a clear commitment to supporting Mediterranean countries with a substantial increase in the amounts of aid, especially for countries involved in the peace process with Israel.

Those officials also expect the EU to focus more on its relations with the region in the coming year as the presidency of the union will rotate among France, Spain and Italy respectively, three Mediterranean countries with special interest in bolstering ties with the region.

Unlike northern European nations which are

more concerned with developments in Eastern and Central Europe, France, Spain and Italy speak of the necessity of articulating strong supportive policies towards their neighbours to the south with the purpose of consolidating stability in the region and preempting any destabilising economic and political developments that could spill into their territories.

But beyond their concern for promoting stability in the Mediterranean region through development aid, stronger trade ties and "partnership" agreements, the southern European nations want to strengthen the EU's relations with the South out of fear they will become on the "periphery" of Europe once it completes its expansion northwards, European officials said.

With expectations that most Eastern European countries will eventually join the union, the depth of the EU will move northwards and the weight of the southern EU members will be marginalised unless some sort of expansion to the south is achieved. This expansion cannot be achieved through membership of non-European countries in the EU, but an

Jerusalem's Greek Orthodox church dismisses reports its members are arming

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Greek Orthodox church in Jerusalem denied yesterday that any of its priests was arrested by the Israeli authorities for possession of arms which the Israeli police says were intended to be used to protect Christians against Muslim fundamentalists.

In an advertisement published in the Arabic press Tuesday, the Jerusalem-based Greek Orthodox Patriarchate dismissed the reports as only aiming "to sow the seeds of disunity and to further feelings of hatred and malice" among Christians and Muslims.

The Jerusalem Post said the arrests followed reports that attacks by Muslim extremists on Christian targets in occupied Jerusalem have increased in recent months.

The newspaper said the

seven were remanded for seven days. It said the other two, including the priest whose accidental injury while using one of the group's weapons led to the arrests, were released on bail.

The statement challenged the Israeli police to reveal the identity of the alleged priest to prove the truth of its claims and said the patriarchate reserved its right to take those spreading such "suspicious" lies to court.

The Jerusalem Post identified the injured priest as Father John Kodsdimitrophilios, 25.

"We all declare, as Muslims and Christians, that we are partners for better or for worse in our joint struggle as we share the same destiny,

and are working to consolidate national unity that we enjoyed for generations," said the patriarchate's statement, warning that it would not allow any party with ill-intentions to infiltrate the ranks of Arabs or "our principled religion which was baptised by the blood of our joint martyrs."

It stressed that the patriarchate would always seek to

safeguard the good and warm relations between Muslims and Christians and voiced allegiance for the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein and the Hashemite family.

The Jerusalem Post said the arrests followed reports that attacks by Muslim extremists on Christian targets in occupied Jerusalem have increased in recent months.

The Greek Orthodox Patriarchate condemns such news that were spread recently, especially at such a crucial stage, and denounces their content as a whole," the advertisement signed by the Patriarchate's spokesman in the Old City, said.

Such news "aim at undermining the confidence our church and community have enjoyed for generations since the time of the Omari Pact," the statement said in reference to the pact signed by Caliph Omar Ibn Al Khatab who entered the city after it fell to the Arabs in the 7th century A.D. The Omari

As an example, the experts said as the only GCC state which has an AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System) system of its own, Saudi Arabia favoured an integrated regional air defence system based on its own central command.

They listed among them lack of standardisation between the six armies, the various origins of hardware deployed, different specifications and in some cases reluctance to surrender authority in a way that may affect sovereignty.

"One state uses metric system, the other uses inches... if, for example, a Qatari (battle) tank pulls into a Saudi fuel depot, the nozzle will not

fit into the gas tank," said another expert familiar with the GCC tasks.

Saudi Arabia, the largest, wealthiest and most populous of the six states, had also the most developed military infrastructure, was the strongest militarily and its generals have so far commanded the GCC's Peninsula Shield.

As an example, the experts said as the only GCC state which has an AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System) system of its own, Saudi Arabia favoured an integrated regional air defence system based on its own central command.

"The Saudi AWACS jets cover the whole Gulf region and beyond. So, they argue,

why should they surrender that capability to other states

who only have terrestrial air defence systems?" one expert said.

"Because Saudi Arabia has the biggest military and is buying mainly from the United States, that does not mean others should do the same," he added.

Prince Sultan denied suggestions that differences within the GCC were hindering its plans and added another dimension when he revealed that consultations were underway among the group to create a joint arms industry.

COLUMN 8

Prince Rainier leaves hospital

MONTE CARLO, Monaco (AP) — Prince Rainier was released from Monaco's hospital after a successful bypass heart surgery Nov. 25. Prince Rainier, 71, spent two days in the intensive care unit, then transferred to a normal room where he received visits from his family and ate regular hospital meals. The royal palace denied reports surfacing immediately after the operation suggesting that Prince Rainier, Monaco's sovereign since 1949, would abdicate in favour of his son and heir, Prince Albert.

Leaked memo shows cost of U.K. royal courtiers

LONDON (R) — As many as 100 couriers and staff of Britain's royal family are living rent-free in five palaces maintained by the taxpayer for Queen Elizabeth, the *Guardian* newspaper reported Wednesday. The information was detailed in a confidential memo to members of parliament from Sir John Bourn, parliament's comptroller and auditor general, which the newspaper obtained. It was certain to add to the debate over proposals by the opposition Labour Party to slim down the royal family. The *Guardian* report says apartments, some worth millions of pounds, are rented for as little as £39 (\$60) a week to courtiers. It also lists 94 rent-free apartments with eight occupied by minor royals. The report also said the royal family was reviewing perks for its staff. In 1992, the queen acted out criticism about royal wealth by offering to pay income tax and cutting the number of her family members on the state payroll.

Quayle discharged from